CONSTRUCTION WOES ON THE HORIZON, PG 8

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TORONTO • MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010
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Celebrity pg 33

Paris' birthday party ends in chaos

Hockey

Not such a Super Sunday

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada goaltender Martin Brodeur reacts after a first-period goal by Team USA's Brian Rafalski during last night's 2010 Winter Olympic men's preliminary-round hockey game between Canada and the U.S. at Canada Hockey Place in Vancouver. The U.S. beat Canada 5-3 to clinch first place in Group A. More Olympic coverage, pages 20-21.

PM in line for Reform pension

BENEFITS Almost all the remaining MPs from the old Reform Party — including Stephen Harper — stand to collect more than $100,000 a year in pension benefits once they retire.

Eleven of the original group of 52 Reformers, who captured public attention with their stand against "gold-plated" pensions for members of Parliament, are still sitting in the House of Commons.

And they may find their old pension promises coming back to haunt them as the Harper government turns its attention to eliminating the federal deficit.

In 1993, when Reformers first arrived on Parliament Hill, the party made its name by advocating cuts to MP pensions as a way of leading by example and facing down the deficit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Vancouver Games

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage throughout the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.
• Today — Exuberant fans give big boost to athletes, page 20

Workology pg 22

Work can be a tasty treat

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Essential to T.O.

MPP proposing bill that would prevent TTC strikes

The TTC would be designated an essential service with workers prohibited from striking under private member's legislation being introduced today by an influential Liberal MPP.

David Caplan (Don Valley East) says commuters are fed up with work stoppages that disrupt the city and cost the local economy about $50 million per day.

"No strikes, no lockouts. And it establishes — if the parties can't bargain on their own — an arbitration process for them to resolve their collective-bargaining issues," he told the Toronto Star.

Mayor David Miller and a majority of city councillors oppose Queen's Park declaring the TTC essential because they believe it would lead to unaffordable arbitrated wage settlements.

A 2008 report by the C.D. Howe Institute, an independent think-tank, found that declaring a public service essential increases the cost of negotiated wage settlements without reducing work stoppages. The report estimated such a measure would cost the cash-strapped TTC an additional $23 million over a three-year contract if workers get deals similar to those awarded essential servants such as police officers and firefighters.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Job actions since 1974

• Since 1974, the TTC has been plagued by nine strikes and work-to-rule campaigns, including an illegal one-day walkout in 2006, a two-day strike in 1999, and an eight-day job action in 1991.

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Team USA women's hockey team confident in its secret weapon for expected showdown with Canada at **metronews.ca/canada**

Immigration Guidy Mamann on options for those refused permanent residency for failing to prove English skills at **metronews.ca/immigration**

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Group tackles school closings

Community making use of social media as TDSB cites budget concerns

A sea of green Save Our School signs dotted the lawn of Brookview Middle School Thursday night as locals came to speak their minds about closing schools in this Jane-Finch neighborhood.

At the door, Canadian Union of Public Employees 4400 members handed out "Freeze School Closings Now" flyers; they represent the caretakers and secretaries whose jobs would be lost if a school were to close. The union has paid for the leaflets and nearly 1,000 signs.

"It's about more than just jobs; even in the Great Depression we didn't sell off public lands."
Janet Bojti, teacher

And the signs are front and centre in a new YouTube video made to fight these school closings by the grassroots group Jane-Finch on the Move.

Signs, flyers, Facebook sites, videos — these are the tools of a new war being waged against Toronto's plan to close possibly dozens of schools in the coming years. As the Toronto District School Board launches this unprecedented review of its unused space, a coalition of parents, community groups and unions called Campaign for Public Education is fighting back.

"But it's about more than just jobs; even in the Great Depression we didn't sell off public lands," said Janet Bojti, an English as a Second Language Instructor who is active with the union and the coalition.

The TDSB argues it has more than 100 schools that are half-empty, and with 4,000 fewer students every year and a $17-million deficit, it needs to close some and use the money saved to improve the rest. The community meetings are about how to trim the board's excess space in a way each neighbourhood can live with, at least grudgingly.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ShareYourViews
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Finance and fairness at independently-run rinks

ICE TIME Some critics say they are like fiefdoms.

Unlike the 40 rinks run by city hall, eight city-owned but independently run Toronto arenas have their own policies and business models that let them decide who gets ice time, when, and at what price. The autonomy enjoyed by these arena boards has paid off, as they rake in hundreds of thousands of dollars in ice revenue each year.

But there is a push on now to ensure their financial freedom doesn't trump fairness.

These arenas are at the centre of a controversy over accusations from girls' and women's hockey leagues who complain their teams are either being shut out, or have limited access to "prime time ice" available on weeknights and weekends.

Today, city council will decide how much control over ice allocation these arena boards should have. A report from Toronto's parks and recreation department says the city should wrest control from them to create a centralized allocation system for both city and board-run rinks.

A compromise plan would see the boards maintain their power, but have the city review and approve those choices.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Documents

- Documents obtained by the Toronto Star reveal how large a revenue draw hockey leagues like the GTHL and North Toronto Hockey Association can be for arenas, perhaps explaining the uphill battle women's and girls' teams face in their bid to get prime ice slots at independent rinks.

Weather **Calm before the storm**

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jogging and feeding the birds were popular activities on the western beaches yesterday as people took advantage of the warm temperatures that reached 5 C. Temperatures are supposed to go back down to freezing today and roughly two centimetres of snow is expected.

News in brief

CLARIFICATION Mattel's Barbie — I Can Be campaign will be held March 20 and 21. The information was omitted from the past weekend's Metro.

BUST A 33-year-old Hamilton man is facing a number of drug-related charges after police discovered a marijuana grow-op in Scarborough Saturday evening. During the investigation, 587 marijuana plants were found on the property, with an estimated value of $587,000.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Oshawa man killed in snowmobile crash

An Oshawa man was killed when his snowmobile struck a tree near Peterborough early yesterday morning. Provincial police said Bohdan Krawek, 58, was snowmobiling on a frozen Chandos Lake near his cottage when he went onto an island and struck a tree. A post-mortem is schedule for today. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Put brakes on bike lane plans: Rossi

It's a move that will pit uptown voters against downtown voters and mayoral hopeful Rocco Rossi knows which side he's on.

Rossi

The former Liberal fundraiser is denouncing a decision by city hall to motor ahead with changes that will within months replace one of Jarvis Street's five traffic lanes with bike paths.

Rossi's response: "It's more than an issue of cars or bikes or pedestrians. It's about process at city hall and respect for the voters. That's what professional politicians don't get." Because of the "controversial" nature of the plans, he said, "all efforts to proceed with the lane reduction project on Jarvis Street should be halted."

Too bad, says local Coun. Kyle Rae. For more than 10 years, Rae and others have been vigorously lobbying for the five-lane thoroughfare to include bike lanes.

On Friday, the city said it would be pressing ahead with plans to do just that, by removing Jarvis' centre lane in order to make room for cyclists.

So far, says Rae, the only real naysayers live in uptown communities such as Rosedale.

"It's the people who live in the executive housing in the north end of Toronto, who like being able to whiz down from their homes to the downtown. And this, apparently, will add two to five minutes to their trip," said Rae. "It's an overreaction."

Most residents are excited about the change, he said, and his office has received zero concerns from the business community.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CAROLA VYHNAK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gail Goodbody, the newly appointed message writer for Living Water Community Church in Uxbridge, shows off some words of wisdom on the church's sign.

Sign offers food for thought while on the road

RELIGION Feeling a little down in the mouth? Why not come in for a faith lift?

"I plagiarized that one," chuckles Gail Goodbody, the new message writer for the sign outside Living Water Community Church in Uxbridge. "I need to find a good website with some Christian sayings."

Call it a sign of these trying times but more churches are getting on board with drive-by messages of hope and inspiration — and some of the best one-liners this side of Yuk Yuk's: Want to talk to God? Try knee mail.

If the block-lettered sight-bites help put posteriors in pews, so much the better. "It's another way that churches are letting the community know that if you haven't come in lately, you might want to because we're the same kind of people you are," says Goodbody, who joined the congregation two and a half years ago.

Their intention is to turn heads, adds Pastor Rob Holtby. "We want people to come in and check things out. We're pretty casual here and we try to be contemporary."

But words for their sign don't always come easy. "I don't have a lot of letters at my disposal and I need more punctuation marks," says Goodbody. "I could really use an exclamation mark!" TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Outreach team helps immigrants get connected

SERVICES A small team of outreach workers has the challenging task of spotting newcomers in York Region and helping them connect to Canada.

The outreach workers are part of a mobile immigrant settlement team that attends community events to identify pockets of isolated newcomers spread across the 1,776-square-kilometre region and link them with services and programs that can help them get settled, find a job or improve their English. It is a new way of delivering referral services as more newcomers settle in the suburbs where distance can impede access, especially for non-English speaking immigrants.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

SPORT Five teenage hockey players and their coach in Vaughan have received brief suspensions after video of locker-room fighting was posted on a website, but the hockey organization disputes claims the scuffles constituted a "fight club." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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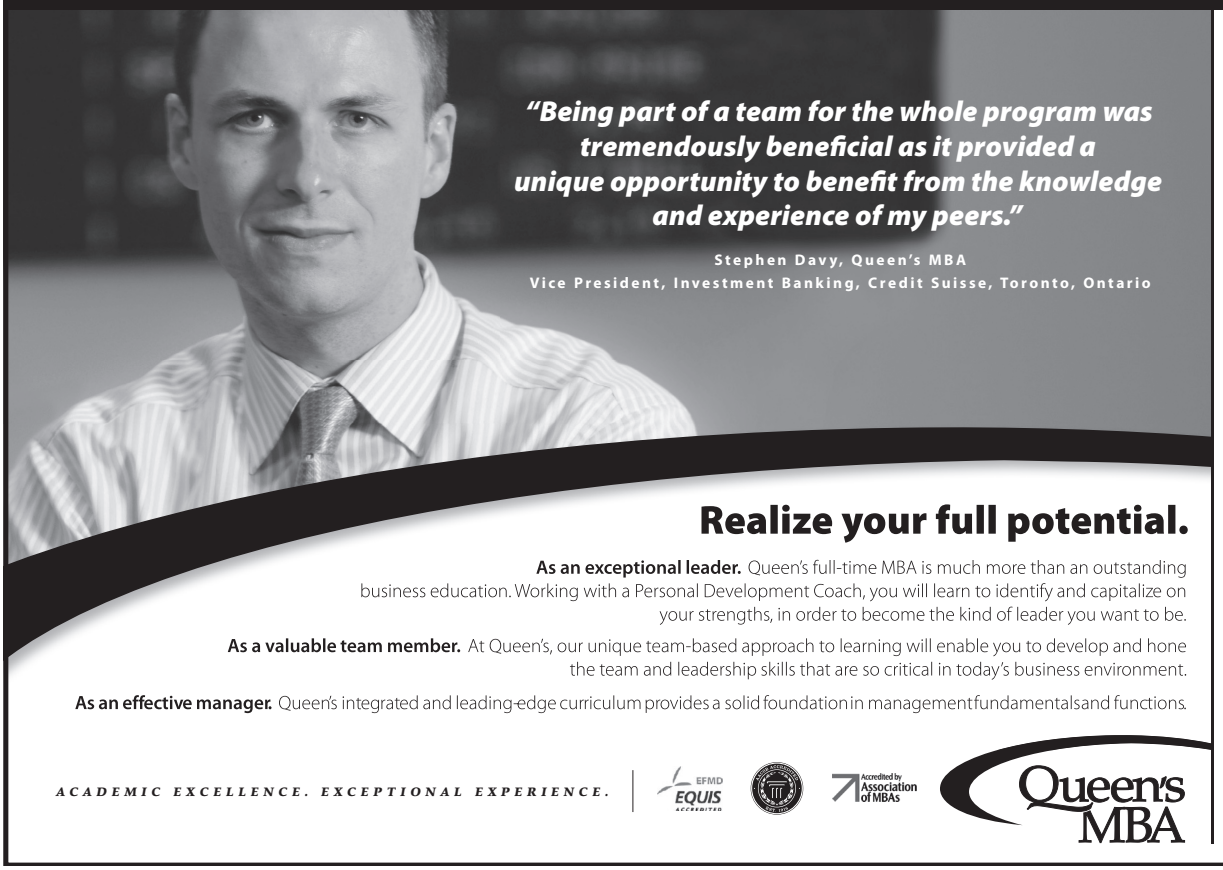

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Ex-ambassador frets over loose email

Canada's former ambassador to Washington, Michael Wilson, worried someone in the Harper government was making him a scapegoat for a damaging leak over NAFTA reforms during Barack Obama's campaign for the presidency, an internal email shows. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

RDS comments draw fire

A Quebec gay rights group plans to file a complaint today with the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council over comments made at the Olympics by two announcers on French-language sports channel RDS. "This may not be politically correct," veteran sportscaster Claude Mailhot said of U.S. figure skater Johnny Weir, left. "But do you think he lost points due to his costume and his body language?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

POLITICS One Canadian premier described it as a love-in. By all accounts, the participation of seven Canadian premiers at the National Governors Association conference Saturday was a success.

TRIAL The trial of a man charged with shooting an RCMP officer who was on solo duty in an Arctic community is scheduled to begin today. No matter how the first-degree murder case against Pingoatuk Kolola turns out, the death of Const. Douglas Scott has already helped change policing in the North, says Chief Supt. Steve McVarnock. THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

ScanLife

As the dust settles from Lucien Bouchard's PQ tongue-lashing, it's clear Quebec politics has changed. Scan this code for the story.

Brazil defends Canadians' rescue

The Brazilian navy yesterday defended its response to a shipwreck that left dozens of teenage students from around the world — including 42 Canadians — adrift on the ocean for two nights.

The navy deployed a search aircraft about 19 hours after it received a distress signal from the SV Concordia on Wednesday, which officials say is in line with standard procedure.

All 48 students and 16 crew members were safely rescued Friday, nearly 40 hours after the sailing ship capsized in the Atlantic several hundred kilometres off the Brazilian coast.

The students, who were taking part in the Canadian-based Class Afloat program, were expected to begin flying home yesterday as soon as their emergency documents and plane tickets were arranged.

Navy spokeswoman Maria Padilha said that naval responders received a distress signal about 10 p.m. local time Wednesday and immediately tried to make radio contact with the vessel. They also communicated with nearby ships and aircraft to see if they could spot anything, Padilha said.

The aim was to assess what type of emergency had occurred, she said, given that it could have been anything from a minor engine problem to a grave illness or a sinking ship. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Homeward

- The 64 survivors of the Canadian sailing vessel that sank off Brazil are expected to begin leaving for home over the next 24 hours.

FELIPE DANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unidentified students react as they arrive at Mocangue naval base in Rio de Janeiro, Saturday. After clinging to rafts in high seas for up to 16 hours, more than five dozen students and crew rescued from the Canadian ship Concordia that sank in the Atlantic began arriving in Rio de Janeiro.

Rates Rise Again

Ontario Regulators Approve More Increases To Car Insurance Rates

Are Rates REALLY Going Up Again?

Unfortunately, the answer is yes. The most recent round of rate increases approved by Ontario regulators has confirmed everyone's worst fears. Car insurance rates are continuing on their one-way trip upwards despite news late last year that the government will soon be introducing reforms to give consumers more choice and flexibility. The most recent increases for the fourth quarter of 2009 bring the average increase across Ontario insurers over the last 12 months to 8.8%. Depending on the insurance company you are with and your situation, you might be on the road to seeing double-digit increases.

Is There Any Hope Of Paying LESS For Car Insurance?

Absolutely. Rates may be on the rise, but the size of the increases can vary significantly from one company to the next and from driver to driver, so don't be fooled by the headlines which suggest we're all doomed to pay more for car insurance. The truth is that rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

The key to finding the best rate is to figure out which insurance company has the best rate for your particular situation. And with rates varying so wildly across companies, chances are you are not with the company that has the lowest rate for your profile right now. This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help by instantly providing quotes from over 30 insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available – and the service is absolutely FREE to use.

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Rate Comparison

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Scientist's disappearance remains a mystery
There has been no trace of Lachlan Cranswick, a Chalk River physicist, who disappeared Jan. 18, after leaving work. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New eHealth woes

Audit questions feds' accountability

Health Canada handed out millions to a national eHealth agency without properly accounting for how the money was spent, says a new audit.

The finding raises doubts about Health Canada's own record of accountability, even as it conducts due diligence before deciding whether to give Canada Health Infoway Inc. another half-billion dollars.

The internal audit examined a $400-million, five-year deal the department signed in 2007 with Infoway, created to ensure all Canadians have an electronic health record by 2016. Infoway received its first cheque, for $38.7 million in 2007. But the auditors suggest the deal was so badly crafted that Infoway was not required to provide enough information to Health Canada to ensure the money would be well spent.

"The information in support of the initial instalment of the new funding was inadequate to verify the validity and appropriateness of the projected expenditures under the terms of the agreement," says the newly disclosed audit, completed in May.

"In the absence of detailed project information, (Health Canada) cannot effectively assess the eligibility and reasonableness of reported budgeted costs."

Sheila Fraser

The audit also disclosed that the Health Canada official who approved the $38.7-million payment did not have proper authority.

Auditors spotted the lapse, and the department fixed the problem 11 months late, having an associate deputy minister retroactively approve a cheque that had already been cashed.

Canada's auditor general, Sheila Fraser, cited a raft of contracting and reporting problems at Infoway, including one contract that ballooned to $726,000 from $144,000 without competitive bids. Fraser also found 13 contracts in a sample of 35 that were signed only after the work had begun.

The latest Health Canada audit also found a few problems at Infoway, including travel that was not authorized in advance, as required. According to the report, Infoway's internal compliance audits were not fully objective and independent, but auditors nevertheless gave Infoway a generally positive review.

Health Canada says it has since tightened the rules in its 2007 agreement with Infoway. The department is expected to wait until after Fraser releases her overview of six provincial eHealth audits, set for sometime in mid-April.

With the Finance Department looking to trim spending, there are fears the $500-billion commitment to Infoway may disappear. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police renew $50,000 reward in triple murder

TIM WIECLAWSKI
Metro Canada

OTTAWA Two-and-half years after a gruesome triple murder in a Hurdman-area luxury highrise, Ottawa Police may renew a $50,000 reward offer for information that could lead to an arrest in the shocking case.

Retired Chief Justice of the Tax Court of Canada, Alban Garon, his wife Raymonde, and their elderly neighbour, Marie-Claire Beniskos, were found murdered in the Garon's apartment in the exclusive Ottawa neighbourhood on June 30, 2007. The three had been bound, gagged and beaten to death 24 hours earlier.

The reward was first offered on June 24, 2008, when the amount offered by the Ottawa Police Service Board was matched by the Late Alban Garon Committee for a total of $100,000. That offer generated 63 tips, but no arrest was made and police hit a rut in their investigation.

According to a police board report, the investigative team believes that the renewal of the reward could generate new information that may advance the investigation.

Police continue to search for a man who was seen in the building's elevator on the morning of June 29, 2007.

Truth commission gets underway

WINNIPEG After travelling the country, hearing tales of abuse suffered by aboriginal residential school survivors, the head of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Justice Murray Sinclair, says forgiveness is not an option for many victims.

Part of a landmark compensation deal reached with residential school survivors, the $60-million commission is to hold its first national hearing in Winnipeg this June, followed by six other hearings across Canada.

About 150,000 First Nation, Inuit and Metis children were forced to attend the government schools over much of the last century. The last school closed in 1996. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Brace yourself for construction woes

InTransit

After decades without adequate transit expansion, it's time to pay. The cost is not only monetary but comes as construction-related dust, noise and delays — particularly in the city of Toronto. Stimulus funding is going to result in a lot of road resurfacing in 2010, followed by years building new subway and light rail lines.

Some areas can expect more disruption than others. Businesses and homes along the planned Transit City routes may be more difficult to reach by auto — permanently.

Higher land values are expected to accompany these new LRT routes as well as the Spadina subway extension to Vaughan, putting further pressure on low-rise, car-friendly areas to make way for urban-style development.

No matter how justified, heavy construction in the city is hard to take — especially after years of relative calm. Just ask people living near the Georgetown rail line — some of whom already hear the thud of pile-drivers. Residents along all GO Transit corridors must adapt to construction and then more trains.

There will be many complaints about all this heavy work in hopes that authorities can make it bearable.

Some opponents want to alter the transit projects themselves, such as building subways instead of light rail to reduce noise and surface delays.

Those following the latter strategy have a big job ahead. They would need to reopen the regional transport plan that is underway, as well as show their real aim is not to curtail transit expansion.

And someone must enunciate just how to pay the higher cost of tunnelling underground. There are ways to raise the money — including road tolls or higher taxes — but these also generate heavy opposition.

Let's have this discussion, although with the aim of building the next phase of overdue transit projects, not stopping the ones already underway.

Note to commuters: See toronto.ca/stimulus_fund for maps of upcoming roadwork.

Quick tip

• Late Friday, the Metrolinx board voted to increase GO Transit fares. No deputations were allowed. As of March 20, one-way fares go up 25 cents, regardless of distance travelled.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

Views

A little insanity can lead to big things

HineSight

For the last 10 days I've spent many hours lounging on the couch, chowing down on chips and pop, watching the sports coverage and I've started to wonder, "What is it that makes these Olympic athletes different than me?"

I cannot think of a single reason I should not have become a contender for a medal in these Games. I can think of about a hundred. Starting with — I'm not prepared to go outside in winter or wear spandex pants in public.

The reason these athletes have achieved what the rest of us haven't is not because they have superior talent and ability to the rest of us. They do, of course, but that's not the reason. The main reason is they believe they can do it.

I have come to believe that what keeps most of us from realizing our dreams is a pesky thing called "sanity." Sanity is what stops most of us from deciding, "Gosh it might be fun to strap on skis or throw ourselves onto a flimsy metal frame and go hurtling down icy vertical drops at 200,000 km/h." Because of this, most of us see sanity as a good thing.

I'm not suggesting for a moment that high-performance athletes aren't sane. With the exception of most snowboarders, of course. But I wonder if, for many of us, "sanity" is just another word for "believing we can't actually get what we want." Our brains, which really should limit themselves to finding cures for cancer and remembering where the channel changer got put, see a new idea and say, "Oh dear. This might not work out. I will not do this." And so our response is not to try.

Maybe what makes an Olympic athlete different from the rest of us is that they listen to the desire of their heart before the warning in their head. So knowing this, am I likely to be gunning for a medal any time soon? Probably not. But when I do take on the dreams and challenges that life presents, hopefully I'll be just like our amazing athletes. Entirely courageous and a little bit insane.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Canadian soldiers dominate in hockey – in Afghanistan
Canadian soldiers defeated U.S. soldiers in a ball hockey game yesterday at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan, 16-2. The fans were so into the game that, for once, there wasn't a line at Tim Hortons. The only other time there aren't lineups is when the shop is closed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

World

Tiny man goes to Europe seeking title

A man who is only 56 centimetres tall left his home country of Nepal yesterday in a quest to be recognized as the world's shortest man. Khagendra Thapa Magar, left, is travelling to Europe to campaign for the Guinness World Record title. He applied to London-based group for a place in the record book in October, soon after turning 18, but said he has not received any response. The current record is held by He Pingping of China, who is 73 centimetres tall.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Outgunned Taliban still fighting

AFGHANISTAN Outnumbered and outgunned, Taliban fighters are mounting a tougher fight than expected in the town of Marjah, Afghan officials said yesterday, as U.S.-led forces converged on a pocket of militants in a western section of the town.

Despite ongoing fighting, the newly appointed civilian chief for Marjah said he plans to fly into the town today for the first time since the attack to begin restoring Afghan government control and winning over the population after years of Taliban rule.

With fighter jets, drones and attack helicopters roaring overhead, Marine and Afghan companies advanced yesterday on a 5.2-square kilometre area where more than 40 insurgents were believed holed up. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

British Embassy lends a hand to Israelis who found themselves linked to reported Dubai "hit squad." Scan this code for the story.

Madeira mudslides kill 42

Death toll will rise as many more missing, authorities say

Rescue workers in Madeira dug through heaps of mud, boulders and debris yesterday, searching for victims buried by floods and mudslides that have killed at least 42 people on the popular Portuguese island.

Residents looking for missing loved ones were directed by local authorities to the resort's international airport, where a makeshift morgue has been set up.

More than 120 other people were injured and an unknown number were missing, possibly swept away or smothered, authorities said, adding the death could still rise.

Of 248 people forced to flee their homes for temporary shelters, 85 have been allowed to return home, a social services spokesman Francisco Jardim Ramos said.

Late yesterday, a spokeswoman for the British Foreign office confirmed that a British national had died, but declined to give further details. The Foreign Office also said a small number of Britons had been hospitalized.

The island is popular with British tourists, who for centuries have regarded wines made in Madeira as a luxury product.

"It was horrible, there were cars on rooftops, there were vans and trucks that had fallen and been totally crushed." Andreas Hoisser, tourist

The worst storm to hit Madeira since 1993 lashed the south of the Atlantic Ocean island, including the capital, Funchal, Saturday, turning some streets into torrents of mud, water and rolling debris.

The flash floods were so powerful they carved paths down mountains and ripped through the city, churning under some bridges and tearing others down.

Residents caught in the torrent clung to railings to avoid being swept away. Cars were tossed about by the force of the water; the battered shells of overturned vehicles littered the streets. "It was horrible, there were cars on rooftops, there were vans and trucks that had fallen and been totally crushed," said German tourist Andreas Hoisser.

The island's most famous son, Real Madrid soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo, was horrified by the floods. "I want to express my willingness to, as far as I can, help agencies and authorities to overcome the effects of this devastation," he said in Madrid. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARMANDO FRANCA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman cleans the entrance to a building in a street filled with mud yesterday in Funchal, the island of Madeira's capital.

Is garment industry the answer?

Haiti Crisis

PORT-AU-PRINCE Jordanie Pinquie Rebeca leans forward and guides a piece of suit-jacket wool and its silky lining into a sewing machine, where — bat! bat! bat! — they're bound together to be hemmed. If she does this for eight hours, she will earn $3.09 US. Her boss will ship the pinstriped suit she helped make to the U.S., tariff-free. There a shopper will buy it for $550. In the quest to rebuild Haiti, the international community is dusting off a pre-quake plan to expand its low-wage garment assembly industry as a linchpin of recovery. U.S. President Barack Obama's administration is on board, encouraging U.S. retailers to obtain from Haiti at least one per cent of the clothes they sell. Garments are central to the economic growth plan commissioned by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last year, written by Oxford University economics professor Paul Collier and promoted by former U.S. president Bill Clinton. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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At least six people killed in Shanghai fire
According to China's state-run news website Eastday.com, a fire at the Yuesheng recycling centre in Qingpu, a district of Shanghai, has killed at least six people. An investigation is underway into the cause, but local authorities refuse to comment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sweden **Snowed in**

JOHAN NILSSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man shovels snow in Glomsta, Sweden, yesterday after the region was hit by 24 hours of heavy snowfall. Forecasts predict more snow to come.

Test-tube kids just fine

Most of the three million children are healthy and normal

More than 30 years after the world greeted its first "test-tube" baby, researchers are finding few medical differences between these kids and others conceived the traditional way.

More than three million children have been born as a result injecting sperm into the egg outside the human body, and it now accounts for about four per cent of live births, researchers said yesterday at the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Most of these children are healthy and normal, but some face increased risk of birth defects, such as neural tube defects and low birth weight, associated with obesity, hypertension and Type 2 diabetes later in life.

Carmen Sapienza, a geneticist at Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, noted that few "test-tube" children are older than 30, so it's not known if they will be obese or have hypertension or other health problems once they are 50.

Sapienza said researchers found differences in five to 10 per cent of chromosomes between assisted reproduction children and other kids.

What's not clear is whether these differences result from assisted reproduction techniques, or from other factors that caused the parent's infertility in the first place.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brown's temper exposed

BRITAIN The British public was introduced yesterday to what one political journalist has painted as the dark face of the country's prime minister: An angry, abusive man whose rages were so intense, Britain's top bureaucrat had to intervene to comfort distressed staff.

Gordon Brown

The description, in Andrew Rawnsley's book, The End of the Party, is vigorously contested by Brown and his lieutenants, who say, although he does get angry, he's not a bully.

One passage describes Brown yanking a secretary from her chair for typing too slowly. Another says he flew into rages so regularly that a chair was dotted with marks from where he stabbed it with a pen.

Rawnsley says his work is based on thousands of interviews with hundreds of people both inside and out the government over the years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

FLORIDA Three teenage girls were killed by a train while taking pictures on a narrow bridge in Melbourne, Fla., about 80 kilometres southeast of Orlando on Saturday evening.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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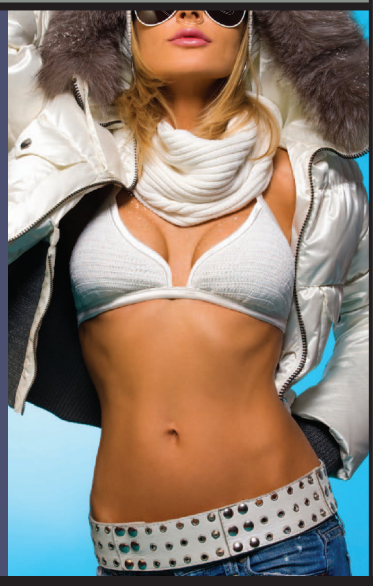
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Ecuador.....12.9¢	Libya.....24.9 ¢	Guyana.....27.9¢	Trinidad..... 4.9 ¢
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Nevada casinos lose $6.8B
A new report shows Nevada's major casinos posted a net loss of $6.8 billion US in fiscal year 2009, more than a 1,000 per cent plunge from the $721 million earned in the prior year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Learning money skills

National task force will focus on financial literacy

Canada's Task Force on Financial Literacy is launching a series of cross-country conversations with Canadians about savings, debt, and their overall financial know-how as it drafts a national strategy to create more financially educated citizens.

The task force will release its Leveraging Excellence consultation document today as a starting point to discuss issues including managing debt, saving and investing, retirement planning and preventing fraud.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty set up the group in June, citing his belief that improving Canadians' knowledge of financial matters would contribute to a more stable economy.

Socio-economic change has meant Canadians will become increasingly responsible for their financial futures, while the financial marketplace is becoming more complex, Stewart wrote.

Laurie Campbell, executive director at Credit Canada and a member of the task force, said she hopes the consultation process will resonate with Canadians and the strategy developed will encourage everyone to become more engaged in their finances.

"People just don't know the basics."
Laurie Campbell, Credit Canada

She said she works with people on a daily basis who don't understand interest rates, or their credit card statements, and who lack money management skills.

"People just don't know the basics. This is very concerning, because with that basic information they can get out of serious financial difficulties and make sure (a credit crisis) doesn't happen again."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Google hacks came from two Chinese universities

INTERNET The Internet attacks that may end up driving Google Inc. out of China originated from two prominent schools in the country, according to a story published late Thursday.

The New York Times reported security investigators have traced the hacking to computers at Shanghai Jiaotong University and Lanxiang Vocational School in China.

The company revealed on Jan. 12 that digital thieves had tried to break into the accounts of human rights activists opposed to China's policies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Laura Secord back in Canadian hands

TAKEOVER Under new owners, the Laura Secord chain says it will introduce products such as anti-oxidant-rich chocolates with cranberries and blueberries and nut-free 100-gram bars in a bid to boost the business.

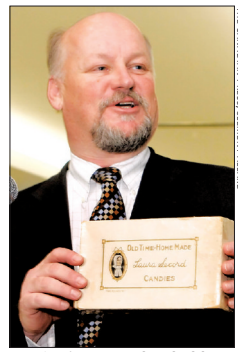
The 128-store retailer also has big plans to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2013, the company said after formally announcing on Friday it has agreed to be bought by Nutriart Inc., a Quebec-based chocolate manufacturer.

The iconic Canadian retailer, named for a heroine of the War of 1812, said being owned by a candy manufacturer will help it cut costs and boost sales.

"That's really the way to go in this business," Laura Secord's chief retail officer Raj Sharma said in a telephone interview.

Nutriart, which was already a Laura Secord supplier, said the deal will create 25 jobs at its state-of-the-art plant in Quebec City as it doubles production. The company will now make all of the retailer's "base chocolate" plus some finished goods, such as the 100-gram bar.

Sharma declined to comment on published reports Nutriart got the Laura Secord stores for $19.5 million, well below the $27.6 million a U.S. equity firm paid in 2004 for what was then a 160-store chain.


THE CANADIAN PRESS/CLEMENT ALLARD

Nutriart's Jean Leclerc holds an old box of Laura Secord chocolates. The company will now be back in Canadian hands.

Laura Secord had been under foreign ownership since 1983. The latest owners were U.S. investors Gordon Brothers Group LLC and EG Capital Group.

Gordon Brothers put the chain up for sale after trying to cut costs and modernize its image as a favourite of older Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retail **Making money as usual**

PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. retail giant Wal-Mart has posted a 22 per cent jump in fiscal fourth-quarter net profit to $4.63 billion US, but its revenue was lackluster. Excluding certain one-time charges, Wal-Mart reported earnings of $1.17 US per share, slightly higher than the $1.12 US a share expected by most analysts for the quarter ending Jan. 31.

Republicans may support jobs bill

ECONOMY The U.S. Senate Minority Leader said yesterday that Republican lawmakers "may well" vote for a jobs bill, though it's not clear whether they will allow a Democratic measure to advance right away.

The pending measure would provide businesses that hire the unemployed a one-year break from payroll taxes and a $1,000 tax credit if those workers stay on the job for a full year.

The tax breaks would cost about $13 billion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Retail sales made slow comeback last year

ECONOMY In the end, recession-weary Canadians came out and shopped.

Retail sales finished the year up 6.7 per cent over last year, including a 0.4 per cent gain in the month of December, Statistics Canada said Friday.

The annual increase was driven mainly by sales of new cars and higher gasoline prices. Excluding those volatile items, retail sales ended the year 2.4 per cent higher, the federal agency noted.

"It was one of those okay, not great, years. But if we had been talking about it at the beginning of the year, we would have thought it was going to be a lot worse," said Maureen Atkinson, a senior partner with J.C. Williams Group, a retail consulting firm in Toronto.

Indeed, retail sales for the previous year fell 6.8 per cent as a slowing economy came to a sudden halt when the credit crunch hit in October 2008, sparking a global financial crisis.

In comparison, most of 2009 has been a story of gradual recovery.

The data for December show retail volume rose 0.6 per cent, slightly ahead of dollar sales. Both were in line with expectations.

When combined with other recent data, including declining jobless claims, it appears the economic recovery is taking firmer root, Doug Porter, deputy chief economist with BMO Nesbitt Burns, wrote in a note to clients. "Retail sales continue to gradually grind ahead, putting the nightmare of late 2008 well behind us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brookfield urges patience
The chief executive of Brookfield Asset Management Inc., a Toronto-based real-estate, power and resource asset manager, cautioned Friday that it could take "some time" before there are visible benefits from $2.4 billion US invested by the firm in its various businesses last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toyota dealers looked at hiring Hilton's PR firm

How rattled are Toyota dealers about the company's problems? Some U.S. dealerships nearly hired the same crisis public relations firm that handled the travails of socialite Paris Hilton, singer Chris Brown and a company that California called the state's worst inland polluter.

With Toyota waging a furious lobbying and advertising battle to protect its name following the recall of 8.5 million vehicles, many of its 1,200 dealers are taking matters into their own hands. About 50 Toyota dealers in the Los Angeles area almost retained the public relations firm Sitrick and Co. — known for helping troubled celebrities and beleaguered companies put the best face on dire situations, including Greka Oil & Gas, whose California facilities have been plagued by oil spills and gas leaks.

Insiders said the idea was nixed after Toyota officials said the company should speak with one voice — theirs.

Dozens of dealers will lobby members of U.S. Congress this week as two House oversight committees hold hearings. Some dealers organized their own advertising campaigns; many are nervous and angry.

"As we get into the media circus and the congressional panels which may stir things up again, they're so afraid this is going to terrify customers and they just want to get their story out," said Cody Lusk, president of the American International Automobile Dealers Association.

> **"...they're so afraid this is going to terrify customers and they just want to get their story out."**
> Cody Lusk, dealers association

The behind-the-scenes activities highlight dealers' worries about a crisis that has caused Toyota sales to plummet, and about a corporate response that some of them consider slow-footed and inadequate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greece debt **Austerity measures likely**

DIMITRI MESSINIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman smokes in front of a department store display in central Athens on the weekend. Greece's Socialist government is mulling further austerity measures to deal with the country's acute debt crisis, despite increasing opposition from powerful labour unions.

Lufthansa grounded as pilots go on strike

AIRLINES More than 4,000 pilots for Germany's Lufthansa AG airline launched a four-day strike early today that is expected to cause headaches for travellers around the world.

The strike, that was to last until Thursday, forced Lufthansa to cancel hundreds of flights.

Pilots for Lufthansa Cargo and Lufthansa's low-budget subsidiary, Germanwings, are also taking part in the strike. They are seeking increased job security and for German labour conditions to apply to Lufthansa pilots hired abroad, in an effort to prevent their jobs from wandering to neighbouring countries with cheaper conditions.

Lufthansa had scrambled in advance to rebook passengers on other flights or, within Germany, trains. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investors tour hydro facility

HYDRO About 20 investment managers and advisers took a tour of a Toronto Hydro substation Friday. Hydro officials insisted the tour was routine, aimed at giving those who own large amounts of Toronto Hydro's bonds a close-up view of the utility.

But with mayoral candidate Rocco Rossi calling for Toronto Hydro to be privatized, the leader of the union local that represents hydro workers said the visit fans suspicion about a possible sale. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Stocks set for further gains despite U.S. Fed's rate hike

MARKETS The Toronto stock market may be in for further gains this week as investors realize the U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to hike the interest rate it charges banks is not necessarily a bad thing.

During the week, investor attention will be directed at earnings reports from some of the big Canadian banks and U.S. consumer confidence and economic growth data.

The TSX bounded ahead 239 points last week — up a solid 5.35 per cent over eight consecutive sessions.

However, investors were taken aback at the end of last week when the U.S. Federal Reserve moved to increase its discount rate a quarter point to 0.75 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shaw's bid for CanWest TV OK'd

TAKEOVER The Ontario court overseeing the restructuring of CanWest Global approved a takeover bid for the company by Shaw Communications Inc. late Friday despite a rival bid backed by the broadcaster's founding family.

Catalyst Capital Group announced a last-minute bid for CanWest's broadcasting assets, with the support of the Aspers and two former executives of Rogers Communications — including John Tory, former leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservative party. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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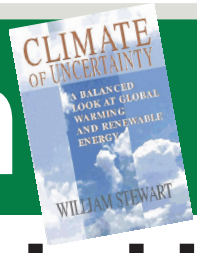

Uncertain climate

Insightful and refreshingly level-headed, Climate of Uncertainty tackles all of the major climate change issues facing our world today. William Stewart examines the issues with objectivity rarely seen in an arena so fraught with extremism. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Sodastream's relevance bubbling over

Soda-making machine capturing fizzy drink lover's attention for its eco-conscious approach

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

When Sodastream was founded a century ago, it was a luxury device for the upper class.

Today the DIY soda company rides high again, thanks to fizzy-drink lovers' eco-consciousness.

"It's great when a company has a reason to exist," says Sodastream CEO Daniel Birnbaum. "Every time we sell a machine, we think 'we just saved the world from a thousand bottles."

That's not what Sodastream focused on in 1903, when it presented its first soda-making machine.

"For the first decades, our machines were pretty much just used by the aristocracy," concedes Birnbaum.

"In the '50s they became a household item. But three years ago, we realized that we're an extremely green company."

Sodastream's realization came at the right time.

Today Sodastream sells its soda-machines and 180 different-flavored syrups in 32 countries, including the United States, Mexico and most of the EU.

It remains the market leader in DIY soda machines, and for the past three years, sales have increased steadily.

"People are realizing that they can make their own Coke in 10 seconds and help the environment, too," says Birnbaum. "But we can't compete with Coca-Cola."

It can't compete with Coca-Cola's price, either: the machine retails for $60 and up.

The syrups and the fizz-adding gas cylinders add to the cost.

While regular consumption quickly makes the it pay for itself, Birnbaum concedes that the up-front cost turns people off.

"The environment alone isn't enough to made Sodastream a mass-market product," he says.

"We have to reduce the price of the machine."

Meanwhile, the Israel-based company is adding cylinder-filling stations in different markets — it's about to open two in Holland and Sweden — to reduce its cylinders' flight miles.

"There's a revolution happening." exclaims Birnbaum.

"100 years ago soda-machines were about convenience. Now they're about the environment."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Sodastream CEO Daniel Birnbaum is touting his system as a eco-friendly replacement for traditional fizzy drinks.

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Powering soda

- Last year, Sodastream sold 400 million liters of beverages around the world.
- That equals 1,125,000,000 cans (or bottles) of fizzy drinks taken from the market
- 1,125,000,000 cans of fizzy drinks equates to 17,000 tons of aluminum, which could have built roughly 720 airplane jets.
- The oil used to manufacture those cans would have equaled 355,000 barrels, which could have run 29,000 cars for one year.
- Coca-Cola sells an estimated 67,873,309 cans of its Classic Coca-Cola brand every day.

Remaking his city into an eco-capital

AURÉLIE SARROT
Metro World News

Metro met Paris' mayor Bertrand Delanoë to talk about his ambitions for a greener future in the French capital.

And make no mistake, they are more than just ambitions.

Q Speaking on the environment, how do you take stock of the situation eight years after you became mayor of Paris ?

A Since 2001, we tried to work on every possible level to improve Paris environmental performance. For instance, since 2006, social housing and public buildings that are being built in the capital have the High Environmental Quality label.

We also tried to diversify transportation systems to put an end to the automotive hegemony. Therefore, we developed streetcars, protected busways, Velib' (a bike rental system) and fluvial buses. And we had some results: car traffic has been reduced by 20 per cent between 2002 and 2007, which led to a nine per cent reduction of our carbon emissions and a 32 pre cent reduction of nearby pollution. It's positive, but I want to go further.

Q You want Paris to become an ecocapital. What do you mean by that?

A By 2020, we want to reach a 25 per cent reduction of our gas emissions and 25 per cent of renewable energy in our global energy consumption. We will install 200,000 square metres of solar panels by 2014 to reach this goal. We will also develop geothermics and urban windmills, and start a major isolation plan for 55,000 apartments by 2020.

Q What do you expect from the world powers today?

A I want clear commitments from rich countries by 2020 and 2050, with restrictives rules and a precise schedule.

But we also need a massive support to Africa, with technologies transfers and a financial aid.

The plan proposed by France is already seven billion euros below the current European Union propositions.

Paris' mayor Bertrand Delanoe has said he wants to make his city into the eco-capital of the world.

Reuse everything
Reuse your water bottle. Avoid buying bottled water. In fact, reuse everything at least once, especially plastics. METRO NEWS SERVICES

METRO WORLD NEWS

Prince Charles is working to determine how the rate of rainforest destruction can be slowed.

Sending out an SOS

Sting joins Prince Charles' rainforest campaign

CÉLIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

Sending an SOS to the world is what British pop-star and environmentalist Sting has been doing lately.

This time not with the song Message in a Bottle but with a video, part of the Rainforest SOS, a campaign currently underway by the Prince's Rainforests Project (PRP).

The main goal is to draw attention and support to preserve world's rain forests.

To get global awareness, Sting and other celebrities joined the efforts of Prince of Wales' project.

"Climate change and the rapidly increasing destruction of the Earth's ecosystems, which we depend upon for vital materials and services are, to my mind, the greatest challenges facing the world." said Prince Charles. "If unchecked, they will dwarf any of our current financial difficulties, resulting in billions of environmental refugees, uncertain production of food and lack of water, the increasing spread of disease and, of course, growing social instability. "

With increased climate change disasters, the number of environmental refugees is expected to climb.

Sting's support of the campaign coincides with the 30th anniversary of the release of The Police's hit Message in a Bottle, from their first album Regatta de Blanc.

"Thirty years ago, I wrote Message in a Bottle. Today, I'm supporting The Prince's Rainforests Project to send an SOS to the world. Sending your SOS is easy, and can help create the climate for change."

Sorting out a solution, the PRP has developed a proposal for emergency funding to help protect rainforests and to use incentives to encourage rainforest nations to continue to develop without the need for deforestation.

The PRP was established in October 2007 by The Prince of Wales to develop consensus on to how the rate of rainforest destruction might be slowed. Rainforests regulate rainfall, preserve biodiversity and, most important, store vast amounts of carbon.

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No matter what sort of vehicle you drive, you can cut your fuel costs, and your emissions, by learning to relax.

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Mauer reports to camp
American League MVP Joe Mauer has reported to spring training for the Minnesota Twins without a contract extension in place. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Infection sidelines Federer

Roger Federer, left, withdrew from the Dubai Championships because of a lung infection yesterday. Organizers said the top-ranked Swiss star picked up the infection last week and will miss the $2-million US event, which starts today, for the second straight year. A four-time winner in Dubai, Federer will rest for two weeks and is expected to return at Indian Wells beginning March 11. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

PGA boss takes blame for leaving players in the dark

WOODS PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem took the blame yesterday for not alerting his players about why Tiger Woods chose to make his first public appearance during the Match Play Championship.

Players had to field several questions about Woods upon finishing their matches in the opening round Wednesday, when it was announced Woods was to speak publicly Friday for the first time since the Nov. 27 car accident that revealed rampant affairs.

Most troubling to some players — Ernie Els in particular — was the perception that Woods was getting back at Accenture, the title sponsor at Match Play and the first company to drop Woods over the sex scandal.

Finchem, who allowed Woods to use the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse at PGA Tour headquarters for the nationally televised event, knew Woods was on a break from therapy and was to return Saturday.

"In hindsight, we should have pushed the thing along in a way to get the players briefed before they went into their Wednesday matches, some so they're not coming out of a match and getting hit with all these Tiger questions," Finchem said. "We just screwed up on that. That's just a screw-up on my part.

"You can never communicate too much in this business, and when you don't, you usually pay a price." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argos sack quarterbacks

Joseph, Pickett cut loose as team continues make-over

Kerry Joseph says he was preparing for this third season as the Toronto Argonauts quarterback, but had a bad feeling when the team had not contacted him since hiring a new head coach.

Those feelings were realized yesterday when Joseph was informed that he, backup quarterback Cody Pickett and linebacker Zeke Moreno had been released as the reconstruction of the Toronto Argonauts continued at a breakneck pace.

In the past two weeks, the Argos have changed owners, hired a new head coach, fired its player personnel department and parted ways with several players.

"I guess they want to go younger at quarterback," said the 36-year-old veteran, who got the news after returning from church in New Orleans.

The jettisoning of two quarterbacks could set up the first big test for Canadian Football League commissioner Mark Cohon on the issue of David Braley's dual ownership.

Braley's B.C. Lions are five deep at quarterback and there's a good possibility that either Buck Pierce or Jarious Jackson could be released or traded. Since the Argos appear to be the only team looking for a quarterback now that free agent Steven Jyles is poised to sign with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, either could end up with Braley's Argonauts.

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Toronto Argonauts released quarterbacks Cody Pickett, left, and Kerry Joseph yesterday.

Argo head coach Jim Barker, whose arrival last week signalled a torrent of personnel changes, wasn't tipping his hand.

"We have a couple of quarterbacks in mind," he said. "We have a plan in place and will be making those announcements in the next month."

Other possibilities included Montreal Alouettes backup Adrian McPherson, who has requested a trade, and Gibran Hamdan, who was released by the Buffalo Bills and is reportedly on the Argo negotiation list.

Barker said releasing the trio was a difficult decision, "but the organization is going in another direction and changes have to be made."

Barker said the moves were made now so the players could have a chance to sign with other teams.

Asked if salary considerations were involved, Barker said, "We take all factors into consideration."

Joseph, who had one year left on his $300,000 annual salary, said he expects to resurface in the CFL this season.

"I'll play anywhere," he said, adding that a backup role would be acceptable. "I don't have a big ego and if I can help somebody out I'm happy." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Poulter wins Match Play Championship

GOLF Ian Poulter captured the biggest victory of his career yesterday by leading the final 28 holes to beat Paul Casey, 4 and 2, in an all-England final at the Match Play Championship.

Along with winning his first World Golf Championship, the 34-year-old Poulter won for the first time on American soil.

"It's been a long time coming," Poulter said after closing out Casey with a par on the 34th hole. "I knew I was in great form. I felt comfortable all day on the golf course."

Casey made sure Poulter didn't work up too much of a sweat. He struggled at times with his swing in falling behind, and his short game wasn't good enough to allow him to catch up.

Casey became the first player to lose consecutive years in the championship match.

"Poulter played great," Casey said.

"There were a lot of shots which I wanted to pull off and I didn't. He did a fantastic job of making putts and keeping the ball in play, and he kept the pressure on. And I got beaten." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Orlando 101 Cleveland 95
Denver 114 Boston 105
Detroit 109 San Antonio 101 (OT)
Memphis 104 New Jersey 94
Oklahoma City 109 Minnesota 107
New Orleans 102 Houston 94
Atlanta at Golden State
Sacramento at Phoenix
Utah at Portland

TODAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Washington
Milwaukee at New York
Indiana at Dallas
Atlanta at Utah
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers

Sports in brief

NASCAR Jimmie Johnson got a huge break on his last stop, getting on pit road only seconds before the caution flag came out, and held off a charging Kevin Harvick in the closing laps to win at California yesterday

SOCCER Roman Pavlyuchenko scored two late goals as Tottenham moved into fourth place in the Premier League with a 3-0 victory at Wigan yesterday, while Manchester City and Liverpool laboured to a scoreless draw. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

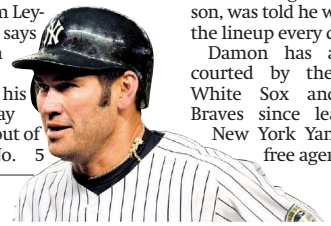
Tigers, Damon have preliminary deal

BASEBALL Detroit Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said yesterday that "significant progress" is being made in negotiations with veteran outfielder Johnny Damon.

The Tigers and Damon have reached a preliminary agreement on an $8-million US, one-year contract.

A person familiar with the negotiations says Damon has completed his physical with the Tigers, clearing the way for the team to finalize the deal.

The 36-year-old Damon would bring another left-handed bat to the Tigers' lineup besides switch-hitter Carlos Guillen. Guillen and Damon would likely alternate between left field and designated hitter, but manager Jim Leyland says Guillen would be his everyday hitter out of the No. 5 slot.



Johnny Damon

Leyland said he told Guillen last fall that he would be the full-time left-fielder. Guillen, who batted .242. with 11 homers and 41 RBIs in 81 games last season, was told he would be in the lineup every day.

Damon has also been courted by the Chicago White Sox and Atlanta Braves since leaving the New York Yankees as a free agent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Howard and Co. extend Cavs' streak
Dwight Howard had 22 points and 16 rebounds in a bruising battle with Shaquille O'Neal, and the Orlando Magic beat Cleveland 101-95 yesterday for the Cavaliers' first three-game losing streak in two years. Cleveland's skid comes on the heels of a 13-game win streak. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Players' union, MLS still at odds

SOCCER The union for Major League Soccer players accused management of failing to bargain seriously and wouldn't say whether it will play under the terms of its expired labour contract.

A day after MLS president Mark Abbott went public with the league's offer to start the season next month without a new deal, the union issued a pair of statements that weren't directly responsive and left open the possibility of the league's first strike.

"It is unfortunate that MLS doesn't see the modest changes we have proposed as being good for the league, especially since until these changes are made, more and more quality players who should be playing in MLS will not be doing so," MLS Players Union executive director Bob Foose said yesterday in an email to The Associated Press.

The league's first collective bargaining agreement expired Jan. 31.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strasburg buzz brewing

Stephen Strasburg is already creating quite a buzz in spring training.

About 150 fans, twice the normal number for Washington's first workout, watched Nationals pitchers and catchers practise yesterday. And most of them had their eyes squarely on the No. 1 pick in last June's draft.

Strasburg threw 37 pitches — matching his jersey number — during his nine-minute session, one of five pitchers manager Jim Riggleman watched intently.

After the outing, Riggleman tried to temper expectations swirling around the right-hander.

"We're open-minded. Everybody's performances will determine where they end up," Riggleman said. "(Strasburg) could pitch real well down here, but we still may feel like the development process is to be respected."

If Strasburg starts his first professional season in the minors, the 21-year-old from San Diego State said that's fine.

ROB CARR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg winds up for a pitch yesterday during a spring training practice in Viera, Fla.

"They have a plan for me," he said. "I trust that they're going to handle me the right way. You just got to worry about what you can control — and that's going out there and trying to help your team win a ball game."

General manager Mike Rizzo, however, acknowledged that Strasburg is being fast-tracked.

"If he's the player we think he's going to be, we feel he'll have some impact in the major leagues in 2010," Rizzo said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

m.metronews.ca
SCANLIFE
The arrival of healthy Cards sluggers has put a spring in Tony La Russa's step at spring training. Scan this code for the story.

Ready to battle for closer role, Gregg likes Jays' bullpen depth

BLUE JAYS This is the well-travelled Kevin Gregg's third spring training site in the past three years and his fourth in a six-year career.

Nevertheless, despite claiming catcher Jose Molina is the only teammate he knows, the relief pitcher, signed as a free agent but added to the Jays' roster yesterday, seemed comfortable with his new team and anxious to get started.

Kevin Gregg

"Talking to (GM) Alex (Anthopoulos) it's a chance to pitch late in ball games in the AL East," Gregg said. "It's the chance to sort of help out a bullpen that is looking for a couple of guys to fill in."

Even though he has begun each of the past three seasons as his team's closer — two years with the Marlins and last season with the Cubs — the 30-year-old righthander knows nothing is guaranteed. He will compete for save opportunities with right-hander Jason Frasor and southpaw Scott Downs. Gregg welcomes the challenge and feels the depth of the pen can be an advantage.

"Whatever role we all end up in, you're making that game pretty deep," Gregg said. "It's going to help out the starters and seeing these guys are pretty young for what they've accomplished, it allows them to shorten the game. We're not going to have to push those guys to try to get them into the seventh or eighth inning. When you've got three guys that can just close the door at the back end it can really help out the starters in their situation. It lets everybody grow."

Gregg was 5-6 with a 4.72 ERA last season with the Cubs, going 23 for 30 in save opportunities. If he is to close for the Jays in 2010, he needs to show improvement on his 1.31 WHIP inflated by 30 walks and 60 hits in 68⅔ innings.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Skeleton win a ratings hit

CTV says 4.6 million viewers stayed up to watch Jon Montgomery's thrilling gold-medal skeleton performance Friday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Mike Richards slides into U.S. goalie Ryan Miller during last night's game between Canada and the U.S.

Miller stuns Canadians

Makes 42 saves for U.S. in upset

Playing in throwback jerseys from the 1960 Olympics, the U.S. men's hockey team rode the hot goaltending of Ryan Miller to defeat Team Canada 5-3 last night — its first Olympic victory over its northern rival since winning gold at the Games 50 years ago.

Brian Rafalski scored two goals and Miller made 42 saves as the Americans came out on top of a wildly entertaining hockey game.

The biggest question for the Canadian team will be who starts in goal tomorrow, when Canada faces a must-win playoff to advance to the quarter-finals. Martin Brodeur looked a bit shaky against the U.S. and was also the victim of a couple bad bounces, perhaps opening the door for Roberto Luongo to assume the No. 1 job.

Canada didn't find out its opponent in tomorrow's playoff game until after the preliminary round ended with the Sweden-Finland matchup late last night, but it does know that only victories will be good enough from here. Team Canada needs four straight wins to earn the gold medal an entire country is yearning for.

Chris Drury, Jamie Langenbrunner and Ryan Kesler had the other goals for the U.S. while Eric Staal, Dany Heatley and Sidney Crosby replied for Canada.

Canada outshout the U.S. 45-22.

The young Americans celebrated yesterday's victory like a Stanley Cup win. The team features just three players with past Olympic experience and has embraced the underdog role here, hoping to summon the spirit of the 1960 and 1980 teams that delivered unlikely golds in this tournament.

They will need Miller to continue delivering performances like this one, where he snared a Jarome Iginla shot while on his knees as the Canadians tried everything they could to get back in it.

The U.S. players mobbed Kesler behind the goal after he secured the win, lunging to knock the puck into an empty Canadian goal with 44.7 seconds left. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Martin clinches first place in round robin

CURLING Canada's Kevin Martin has clinched first place in the men's curling round robin with his seventh win in a row at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Martin remains the only undefeated skip in the tournament.

He controlled his game against Markus Eggler of Switzerland from the start, scoring two points in the first and seventh ends en route to a 6-4 victory.

Kevin Martin

Norway's Thomas Ulsrud lost 8-7 in an extra end to Sweden, giving Martin first place in the round robin and a berth in the semi-final.

Norway's record fell to 5-2. Switzerland, Sweden and Britain follow with 4-3 records.

David Murdoch, the defending world champion from Britain, dumped the United States 4-2.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JONATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada skip Cheryl Bernard, centre, watches her rock yesterday as her team sweeps against the U.S.

In women's curling, at least, Canada gets best of U.S.

BLOWOUT It's been something of a rarity at the Vancouver Olympics, where the host country has been largely upstaged by the medal performance of its giant neighbour to the south, but Canada finally came out on top against the United States yesterday.

Curler Cheryl Bernard picked up her fifth straight win to start the Winter Games with a 9-2 thrashing of the Americans. Bernard made an open draw for four in the third end and never looked back in a match that was called after seven frames.

The blowout victory is the first for Bernard at the Vancouver Olympics that didn't come courtesy of a dramatic final stone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians hold their own among boisterous fans

SUPPORT The crazy German guy with the noisemaker whirling above his head on the Whistler Village stroll turns many heads.

So does the herd of phlegmatic Swiss fans, gonging and bonging a trail through the crowds wielding cowbells the size of accordions in honour of their men's downhill gold.

The Latvians are few but steadfast, howling with national pride and waving maroon flags like matadors taunting bulls, whether at the hockey rink or the luge run.

And the egalitarian Dutch, standing out in their trademark orange, pride themselves as equal-opportunity supporters, roaring for all and sundry at the speedskating oval in Richmond.

But for sheer, unadulterated exuberance, Canadian fans are working the home field advantage at the 2010 Winter Games and running away with the unofficial Olympic title of brazenest boosters.

When Jon Montgomery, the flame-haired auctioneer from Russell, Man., won the gold medal in skeleton Friday night in Whistler, spontaneous renditions of O Canada burst out repeatedly along the village stroll.

Team Canada hockey jerseys and Canadian flags are everywhere.

"I love you, man. I love you," bawled young Canadian fans when Montgomery walked through the village throngs on the way to a TV interview — and these were the men.

Canadian fans at the Whistler Sliding Centre have appeared shirtless or in sports bras, despite the sub-zero temperatures on the mountain.

And they even cheered Amy Williams' gold in skeleton at a Saturday night medals ceremony in Whistler, notwithstanding the British media's scathing assessment of the Games' organization.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dutch support

- At the Richmond Oval, Arjan Degroot said Dutch fans just love the sport. "They're rowdy, they cheer for every skater, Dutch or no Dutch, they cheer for everyone," said Degroot, 42. "But for the Dutch, more."

What to watch today

TV Highlights

Noon: Men's curling
Canada vs. U.S. (CTV).
1 p.m.: Ski jumping
Team gold medal (TSN).
3 p.m.: Women's hockey
Semifinals — U.S. vs. Sweden (TSN).
4 p.m.: Cross country skiing
Men's and women's team sprint free final (CTV, OLN).
5 p.m.: Women's curling
Sweden vs. Canada (Sportsnet).
5:30 p.m.: Women's curling
Britain vs. Denmark (TSN).
8 p.m.: Women's hockey
Semifinals — Canada vs. Finland (CTV);
8 p.m.: Figure skating
Free ice dance gold medal (Sportsnet).
10:45 p.m.: Men's curling
Germany vs. Britain (TSN).

TIMES MAY CHANGE

VANCOUVER GAMES

Medal Count

NATION				TOTAL
U.S.	7	7	10	24
Germany	6	7	5	18
Norway	5	3	4	12
Canada	4	4	1	9
South Korea	4	4	1	9
Austria	2	3	3	8
Russia	2	3	3	8
France	2	2	4	8
Switzerland	5	0	2	7
Sweden	3	1	2	6
China	3	1	1	5
Netherlands	3	1	1	5
Poland	0	3	1	4
Italy	0	1	3	4
Slovakia	1	1	1	3
Czech Republic	1	0	2	3

On the web

- Up-to-date medal standings and results
- Complete day-by-day event schedule
- Metro-Blenz News Squad on-the-ground blog

Visit metronews.ca for more Games coverage.

South Korea's Yu-na to skate 23rd in short program

Olympic favourite Kim Yu-na of South Korea will skate 23rd out of 30 competitors in tomorrow's women's figure skating short program at the Vancouver Games. The reigning world champion will go one spot after her main rival, Japan's Mao Asada, the 2008 world gold medallist. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's Del Bosco falls short

SKI CROSS There will be no Olympic medal for Canadian ski cross racer Chris Del Bosco after the medal favourite crashed on the second-last jump in yesterday's final at the Winter Olympics.

The crash-and-bang sport is making its debut at the Vancouver Games.

Michael Schmid of Switzerland won the gold ahead of Andreas Matt of Austria and Norway's Audun Groenvold, who took advantage of Del Bosco's fall to grab the bronze.

Del Bosco — an American who has dual citizenship through his father — started slowly but worked his way into third before losing his balance and landing heavily on his side. He received medical treatment on the course but appeared to be OK.

Del Bosco, 27, was born and raised in Vail, Colo. His father is a native of Sudbury. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tragedy strikes Olympian

Mother of figure skater Joannie Rochette dies

Tragedy has struck the Vancouver Olympics again, this time delivering a body blow to the Canadian team.

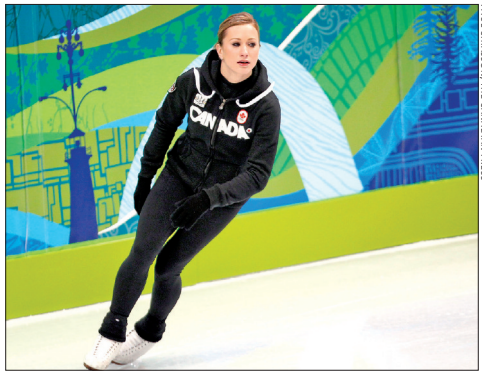
Skate Canada officials said yesterday that Therese Rochette, mother of figure skater Joannie Rochette, died overnight in Vancouver General Hospital. She was 55.

There was no immediate word on cause of death. A Skate Canada official said Rochette's mother collapsed Saturday night where she had been staying.

The 24-year-old from Ile-Dupas, Que. — the reigning world silver medallist and a six-time Canadian champion — still planned to compete, officials said. Her event starts tomorrow.

"We met with her this morning and she intends to compete at the Games," Skate Canada CEO William Thompson told reporters yesterday morning.

"We will, of course, support any further decisions she makes in the upcoming days. She is very determined and we believe she is focused on competing here."



PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's figure skater Joannie Rochette skates during a practice yesterday. She learned earlier that her mother had died.

Rochette practised as scheduled yesterday afternoon. She came on the ice wiping her eyes.

"She may change her mind and that's fine, too," chef de mission Nathalie Lambert said.

"I think she owes it to herself to go on that ice, to have no regrets and fulfil that dream that she had. It's going to be really hard physically and really hard emotionally for sure.

"She's going to get the support of many, many Canadians in the toughest time of her life." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Groves is multi-medallist

SPEEDSKATING Long-track speedskater Kristina Groves has her second medal of the Vancouver Olympics, winning silver in the women's 1,500 metres yesterday.

The 33-year-old from Ottawa finished in one minute 57.14 seconds. She was on track for gold until she ran out of steam on the final lap. Dutchwoman Ireen Wust won gold in 1:56.89.

Czech Martina Sablikova took the bronze in 1:57.96.

Groves also won a bronze in the 3,000 metres earlier in the Games. She's Canada's first multi-medallist in Vancouver. When she received her medal on the podium at the Richmond Oval, Groves' eyes filled with tears.

"I'm happy with the result obviously, but to be honest with you I really wanted to win, it was really close," she told CTV.

"I just kind of faded on that last turn. I'm still really happy... I think it will feel good eventually."

Canadian teammate Christine Nesbitt was among the gold medal favourites and seemed headed to the podium before fading down the stretch. She finished sixth in 1:58.33. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games in brief

MEDALS Canada can still Own the Podium. That's the message Canadian team officials sent yesterday in their assessment of the host team's performance over the first half of the Vancouver Olympics, although with perhaps less bravado than a week earlier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Field of Play

Scott Russell

Win or lose, Canadian athletes live by their own golden rule. Read Scott Russell at www.metronews.ca.

British writing academy to open in Toronto

British literary house Faber & Faber is planning to establish a creative writing school in Canada. Expected to open in October, the Faber Academy Toronto will offer a selection of long and short fiction and poetry courses, with notable Canadian writers serving as instructors. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Olympic spirit winning out at work

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. That seems to be the attitude of some employers across Canada who are encouraging staffers to get into the Olympic spirit. Rather than scold employees for live streaming Olympic events while they should be working, some see it as an opportunity for team building. Accounting firm Ernst and Young has established viewing areas in all its offices and staff are urged to get involved in a variety of Olympic-themed contests and pools. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Using a love of food to create food you'll love

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

STACEY KINKAID PHOTO

Sita Kacker has one refined taste palate.

Sita Kacker grew up eating shepherd's pie, poutine, curry and pineapple upside down cake.

That's what happens when you come from Indian heritage and grow up in England, Montreal and Oakville, Ont.

Being exposed to all this food diversity eventually influenced Kacker's career choice, but as a young person she wanted to become a doctor.

Kacker, now 32, studied nutrition and nutritional sciences at the University of Guelph, and followed it with a master's in human philosophy and nutrition, thinking she'd go to medical school.

But then she took a course in product development as part of her degree. "This is exactly what I want to do with the rest of my life," she thought at the time.

A friend working in the food industry hooked Kacker up with her first job after graduation. She helped a small gourmet food company develop things like tapenades and flavoured oils for high-end food stores.

Two years later, she got a job interview at Loblaw's — where Kacker dreamed of working. It was an intensive interview process that included tastings to assess her palate. She got hired in 2005 and is still with the company.

Kacker has worked on a number of different food categories over the last five years. "Now I have the best category," she says, creating frozen entrees, pizza, frozen fruits and vegetables, ice cream and beer.

Kacker works on a team with a product manager and a quality assurance expert. The food development process starts with an idea, which can come from the numerous books and magazines she reads, other retailers, eating out, Loblaw's customers, staff and the manufacturers the company works with. And travel: Kacker recently went to Mexico to taste authentic local cuisine and to London to check out packaged foods.

Working the Wok

After an idea is proposed and gets basic approval, Kacker starts cooking, either in the test kitchen or with staff at a food manufacturer's plant. She'll create numerous versions of the dish and share them with the company's other product development teams during daily tasting sessions. (If she works on anything Indian she'll often pass it by her mom to make sure it tastes authentic.)

When the team gives its okay, Kacker will take her recipe to the factory and they'll do a pilot run of a large batch.

When a product makes it this far and is ready for production, staff that deal with packaging and marketing take over.

And then, for Kacker, it's on to the next great food idea.

The Lowdown

Job title: Product developer
Salary: Not available
Education/training: A background in either food science or culinary arts, ideally both
Best Part of the Job: "The food. Just tasting and eating. And travelling and being exposed to different cultures."
Worst Part of the Job: "Cleaning out my freezer at work."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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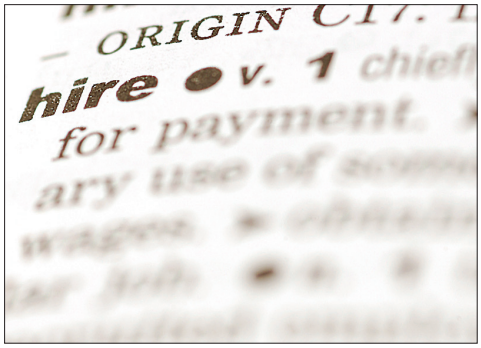
Laid-off workers finding their way back to work

More than half (58 per cent) of the employees laid off in the last 12 months continue to be resilient in their job searches and have secured new positions.

According to an updated survey by CareerBuilder, 51 per cent of workers who were laid off from full-time jobs in the last 12 months have found new full-time positions, up from 48 per cent in June 2009.

"Despite one of the most competitive job markets in decades, nine-in-10 workers say they have not given up on their job searches, and the amount of workers who have found work is evidence that their drive and determination are paying off," said Brent Rasmussen, President of CareerBuilder North America. "The number of laid-off workers who have found new full-time and part-time jobs rose in the last six months. Although this good news reflects a healing economy, it also shows that job seekers are exploring career options in new industries."



Changes in Pay

Looking at workers who were laid off in the last 12 months and found new jobs, 61 per cent reported they were able to negotiate comparable or higher pay for their new position. Thirty-nine per cent of workers took a pay cut.

Transferring Skills

Workers reported they are applying their skills to new areas. More than half (51 per cent) of workers who were laid off in the last 12 months and landed new jobs said they found work in a different field than where they were previously employed, with a third having said they really enjoy their new positions.

Starting a Business

An increased number of job seekers have adopted an "if you can't find a job, create one" way of thinking. Nearly three-in-10 workers (29 per cent) who have not found jobs are considering starting their own business, on par with findings from the June survey.

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Nova Scotia anticipates labour shortage by 2014

Addressing the Halifax Chamber of Commerce on last week, Nova Scotia Labour Minister Marilyn More, who also holds the education portfolio, stated the province's labour force is expected to shrink by 18,500 jobs by 2014. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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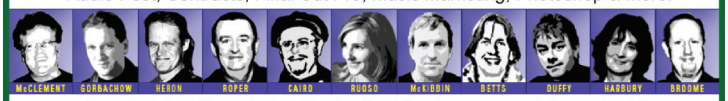

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Health care a good bet

CareerBuilder's annual health care job forecast indicates that the already healthy hiring of the sector will likely continue into 2010.

More than one-in-five (22 per cent) health employers said they plan to increase the number of full-time, permanent employees this year, up from 17 per cent who said the same last year, according to the survey.

In addition to plans to add full-time employees, health care employers will also be bringing part-time help on board to help meet demand. One-in-10 said they had plans to increase the number of part-time employees at their organizations in 2010.

"While most industries struggled with headcount since the start of the recession, health care was and continues to be one of the strongest industries for hiring," said Jason Ferrara, vice president of corporate marketing for CareerBuilder.

"There is high demand for qualified health care workers across a variety of areas; everything from medical assistants to records specialists to nurses."

Recruitment trends

- Replacing Low-Performing Employees: Health care employers are taking advantage of the large number of top talent in the current labor pool to strengthen their work force.
- More Flexibility: Flexible work options continue to be an important benefit for health care employers to provide workers.
- Recruitment Tools: As demand for qualified workers continues, health care employers will leverage a variety of recruitment tools in 2010 to fill open positions. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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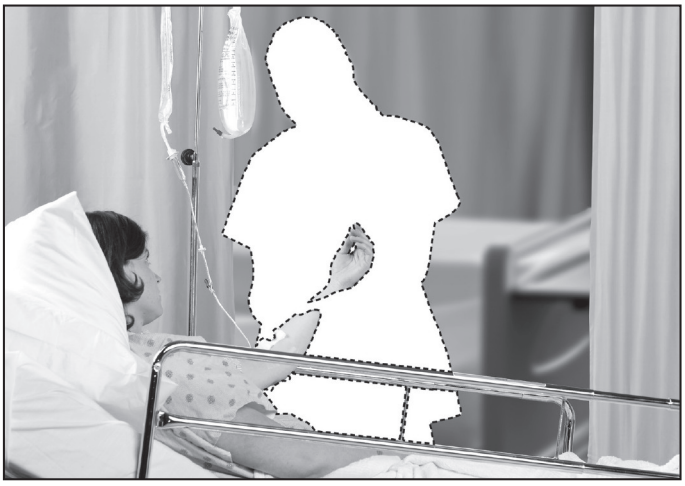

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Durham College to discontinue mandatory laptop lease
After hearing from students in its mobile learning program, Durham College has decided to let them shop around for the own laptop computers this fall. Currently, the college operates a mandatory laptop lease program for students in the program. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Employers share top staffing challenges

While hopeful economic news has some companies breathing a cautious sigh of relief when it comes to headcounts, others continue to face staffing challenges.

According to a new survey, being able to provide competitive compensation (34 per cent), maintaining productivity levels (33 per cent) and being able to retain top talent (31 per cent) are organizations' top staffing concerns this year.

In addition to salary and productivity, a variety of retention issues are worrying some organizations this year as they try to maintain staff levels in the recession rebound.

When asked how they will hold on to top talent this year, employers reported the following:

- Offering more flexible work arrangements;
- Investing more in training;
- Promising future benefits and raises;
- Offering more performance-based incentives;
- Providing higher salary and/or title;

"Retention is just one area that companies will need to address to maintain and grow their businesses this year," said Jason Ferrara, vice president of corporate marketing for CareerBuilder. "Having the right people on board is a top concern. Our survey found that forty per cent of companies are concerned about top workers leaving their organization in 2010 and that nearly one-in-five think morale at their company is poor. At the same time, companies have their eyes on future hiring challenges, especially as the economy moves into recovery."

Looking ahead to upcoming recruitment needs, companies also said they will face hurdles related to hiring. Twenty-one per cent of employers are concerned that won't be able to find qualified candidates, while 12 per cent may not have the budget. And five per cent don't have the time to recruit. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Problems galore

- Some other issues that employers report as challenges include: Worker burnout, being able to provide upward mobility and difficulty strengthening employment brand after layoffs or cut backs.

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Returning officers generally work in the community where they live. In some exceptional cases, however, returning officers may be asked, during an election, to establish an office and work in another community where a greater proportion of the electorate would have access to the office. Temporary relocation costs would be covered by Elections Canada.

Remuneration is governed by regulation. Current fees for an election period are approximately $21,500. The hourly rate for special assignments between elections (approximately 200 hours per year) is $45.32 per hour. These rates are subject to annual review.

Visit Elections Canada's Web site at www.elections.ca. Click on "Returning Officer" to download the application form, the job description and other relevant documents. For more information or for a copy of these documents, you may also call 1-800-463-6868.

Applications must be received by midnight on March 4, 2010.

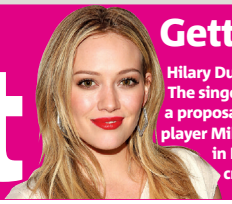
Cette offre d'emploi est également disponible en français à www.elections.ca.

Elections Canada is an independent body set up by Parliament to conduct federal elections, by-elections and referendums.

Growing Pains star gone missing

Police and worried loved ones are searching for actor Andrew Koenig, best known for playing Boner on Growing Pains, who went missing in Vancouver a week ago, popeater.com Koenig, 42, has recently been working as a camera operator on the comedy podcast, Never Not Funny. METRO WORLD NEWS

Entertainment



Getting hitched

Hilary Duff is ready to tie the knot. The singer and actress has accepted a proposal from Edmonton Oiler player Mike Comrie while on vacation in Hawaii, according to Gatecrasher. METRO WORLD NEWS

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Comedy Campaign

Fred Ewanuick stumps for new show Dan For Mayor

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Fred Ewanuick says being the star of a new comedy series is hard work — something he mostly avoided in the past.

"I think I really underestimated the work load," laughs Ewanuick, best known as Corner Gas' lovable schlub Hank.

"On Corner Gas, I'd work three days a week maybe and just shoot a couple scenes a day. This is every day, all day. Not that I'm complaining, but it was a bit of a shock."

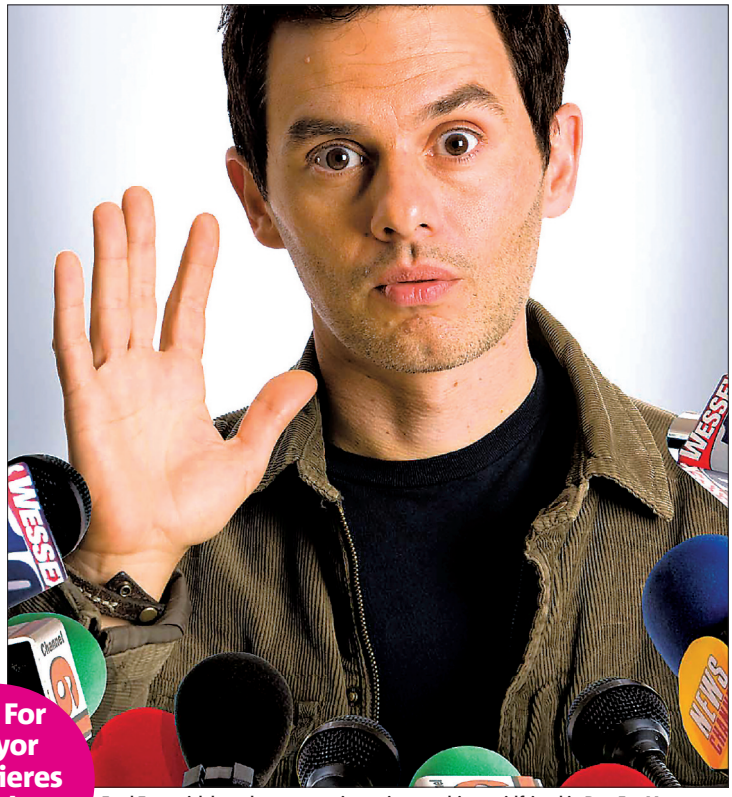
Ewanuick's extra effort has resulted in the comedy Dan For Mayor. In it, the actor plays Dan Phillips, a nice guy bartender who impulsively decides to run for mayor to prove to his ex-girlfriend he's not a loser.

The decision sets in motion an election campaign filled with mishaps and mistakes as Dan finds himself in the public eye and way over his head.

Dan For Mayor premieres March 1 on CTV

Created by the well-known writing trio of Mark Farrell, Paul Mather and Kevin White, one assumes Dan For Mayor will conclude with the season-ending election of Dan. Or will it?

"Well, I'm not saying," laughs Ewanuick. "But I think it's safe to that you can't just have the character constantly running for mayor every year. So something is going to happen eventually. But I can't say what."



Fred Ewanuick launches a campaign to impress his ex-girlfriend in Dan For Mayor.

Though it's not a big acting stretch from Corner Gas' Hank to his Dan For Mayor character, Ewanuick sees a few differences.

"Well, Dan is definitely brighter than Hank. He's just this guy who has no direction. And has reached that point where he's starting to wonder what he's going to do with his life. Sort of like my life."

As excited as he is about Dan For Mayor's premiere, Ewanuick is more thrilled by his current gig as host of the Olympics' nightly victory ceremonies in Whistler.

"It's been just great. The atmosphere is incredible here," he says.

"The only problem is I'm on stage at the same time as the (Canadian) hockey games. But I'm free the night of the gold medal game, so if Canada is in it, I'll be there screaming."

Making a Mochrie of the married life

Canadian comic Colin Mochrie says he and his wife, Deb McGrath, are working on a stage show inspired by their married life.

The improv master, known for barbs on Whose Line Is It Anyway? and This Hour Has 22 Minutes, says he and the Little Mosque on the Prairie actress are developing a comedy piece that will explore the relationships between men and women.

"We have a lot of fun together and we have a really good life and I think a really good rapport," says Mochrie.

"We're just trying to figure out exactly what the format is — it may be sort of sketch-like. It won't be Colin and Deb talking about us, but it will be talking about probably marriage, the differences between men and women."

Meanwhile, he's preparing for a three-week run in the Yasmina Reza play Art for the Canadian Stage Company. The dramatic comedy is about three friends whose relationship is strained when one of them spends a large sum on a white painting.

"It's a departure for me. Obviously, I'm scared, but it's good," says Mochrie, who hasn't done theatre since the late '80s.

"I always like to be afraid, I like to challenge myself, and this seemed like a challenge and being afraid but within a certain sort of island of security, with people I know."

The production runs March 18 to April 10 in Toronto, causing a brief hiatus in Mochrie's long-running improv tour with Whose Line Is It Anyway? co-star Brad Sherwood. The comedy duo have spent six years criss-crossing the country with their routine, and Mochrie says it's as much fun as ever.

Colin Mochrie

ACTRA award

- Mochrie's long career in improv has netted him an award of excellence from ACTRA Toronto. The performers union presented the honour at a Friday gala

"It's strange when you look back on your career. For me, as much as I love doing improv ... it's one of those things where I thought it would never really lead anywhere," he says.

"When I started doing it, it was just for the love of doing improv, it was way before there was anything like 'Who's Line' — it was just something I enjoyed doing. I never thought (a) it would become a career and (b) it would get me some sort of notoriety."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Locker, Air writers win guild awards
The war story The Hurt Locker and the recession tale Up in the Air have won top honours at the Writers Guild of America Awards. Both films are up for screenplay honours at the Academy Awards, which will be handed out March 7. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAN STEINBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Academy President Tom Sherak and actress Elizabeth Banks arrive at the Scientific and Technical Academy Awards in Beverly Hills Saturday. Banks hosted hosted the event.

Hurt Locker 1, Avatar 0

War film trumps sci-fi epic at Oscar-baiting BAFTAs

Iraq war drama The Hurt Locker took home six prizes, including best picture, at the British Academy Film Awards in London last night.

Kathryn Bigelow won the best director prize for the film, beating nominees that included her former husband, Avatar director James Cameron.

The Hurt Locker also won prizes for original screenplay, cinematography, editing and sound. Avatar picked up awards for production design and visual effects.

Avatar and The Hurt Locker both went into the awards with nominations in eight categories, including best picture.

The awards, known as BAFTAs, are considered an important indicator of likely Oscar success.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

An Education star Carey Mulligan, left, and actress Kate Winslet walk the red carpet yesterday before the British Film Academy Awards at London's Royal Opera House.

Austrian actor Christoph Waltz, already a hot Oscar favourite, won the supporting actor prize for his turn as a chilling, charming Nazi colonel in Inglourious Basterds. The supporting actress award went to Mo'nique for Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire.

Director Duncan Jones took the award for best British debut for his lost-in-space drama Moon.

A tearful Jones, whose father is musician David Bowie, said it had taken him a long time to figure out what he wanted to do with his life. "Finally, I think I've found what I love doing," he said.

Earlier, Kate Winslet, Colin Firth, Audrey Tautou, Quentin Tarantino, Vanessa Redgrave and Twilight stars Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart all walked the red carpet before the ceremony at the Royal Opera House, with Prince William on hand to add real royalty to showbiz aristocracy.

The prince, wearing a traditional Saville Row suit, received huge cheers and stopped to chat with waiting fans and have his picture snapped outside the opera house.

William was announced as the new president of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, which presents the awards.

In his acceptance speech, William joked that his predecessor, Richard Attenborough "warned me to keep this brief, otherwise Mickey Rourke might wrestle me off the stage" - a reference to the actor's best-actor victory last year with The Wrestler.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beauty and the geeks light up tech awards

ACADEMY HONOURS Forty-five engineers were honoured with an Academy Awards ceremony of their own that recognized scientific and technical achievements in moviemaking.

The engineers behind the latest in ambient occlusion, digital intermediate processing, sub-pixel offsets and micro-positioning platforms were celebrated at a Saturday night gala at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and hosted by a very unscientific Elizabeth Banks.

The 36-year-old actress joked that she would "read — yet not fully understand — our journey through the scientific and technical awards."

Wearing a sparkling white gown and standing in front of four giant Oscar statues, Banks presented 15 plaques and certificates to scientists from Germany, Sweden, Austria, England, New Zealand, Hungary, Denmark, Japan and the United States.

"I applaud your nerd-dom."
Elizabeth Banks

The men were honoured for developing systems to improve colour on film, advancing performance-capture technology, creating new means to light actors in computer-generated scenes and building high-tech scanners used in modern filmmaking. Moviegoers may have seen the results of their work in films such as King Kong, The Lord of the Rings, Spider-Man 2 and Iron Man.

While the March 7 Academy Awards ceremony will be all A-list glitz and televised glamour, the Sci-Tech Awards are an off-camera, low-key event, with one humble scientist after another taking the stage and nervously thanking his family and colleagues.

Double-winner Tony Sedivy, who helped develop a film scanner and a 3-D hardware system, said receiving the academy honours was "the highlight of my life."

Another honoree, Richard Kirk, clutched his golden plaque with a tiny Oscar on it and said, "I only hope one day I can be as awesome as my friends and family will think I am with this."

A jazz quintet played as winners pushed away from their filet mignon and Chilean sea bass dinners to accept their awards on stage. One tried to explain the genesis of his invention to Banks, who shrugged and smiled playfully.

The star, whose credits include Seabiscuit and The 40-Year-Old Virgin, effortlessly discussed film emulsion technology, spectral response and point-based colour bleeding for indirect illuminations as she presented the awards with a lot of help from a teleprompter.

Academy president Tom Sherak praised the actress for her flawless handling of the high-tech jargon — whether or not she fully understood it.

Banks called the ceremony "a great reminder of everything that goes into the finished product we see in movie theatres."

"I applaud your nerd-dom," she said.

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Berlin fest honours beleaguered director

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Roman Polanski came out a winner at the 60th annual Berlinale, earning the film festival's best director prize for his latest, The Ghost Writer, which celebrated its world premiere at the festival. Producer Alain Sarde accepted on Polanski's behalf, as the scandal-plagued filmmaker could not attend the festival because he is still under house arrest in Switzerland.

"Even if I could I wouldn't go, because the last time I went to a festival to get a prize I ended up in jail," Sarde recounted Polanski saying when he heard the news, referring to his trip to Switzerland last year to accept a lifetime achievement award at the Zurich Film Festival that resulted in his arrest stemming from his 1977 trial.

Roman Polanski on the set of The Ghost Writer. The veteran filmmaker received the best director award at the Berlin film fest.

Turkish film Honey took home the Golden Bear, the festival's top prize. While accepting the award, director Semih Kaplanoglu recounted how the film crew had attracted the attention of an actual bear during production. "The bear is now back," he said, holding up the award statue.

Previous Golden Bear winner Wang Quan'an won the Silver Bear for screenwriting for his Apart Together, which opened the festival. Japan's Shinobu Terajima took home the award for best actress, while How I Ended My Summer co-stars Grigori Dobrygin and Sergei Puskepalis shared top actor honours for their work in the Russian film.

The awards were presented Saturday evening before a crowd of 1,600 at the Berlinale Palast, a converted theater and the main hub of the 10-day festival. Presiding over the festivities were festival director Dieter Kosslick and the International Jury, including Werner Herzog and Renee Zellweger.

Outside the competition, Lucy Walker's moving documentary Waste Land, about making art in Rio de Janeiro's massive Jardim Gamacho landfill, won the audience award, repeating her success at Sundance last month. Her film is only the second documentary to win the prize in the film festival's 60-year-history. The other — Blindsight in 2007 — was also directed by Walker.

Oprah gets her mitts out

America's hottest TV show host sported Canada's coolest Olympic swag on her program Friday — a pair of official Olympic retailer HBC's red mittens. She pronounced them the "hottest item" at the Olympics and then proceeded to give away pairs to her audience. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colbert on the Coast living the Olympic dream

Stephen Colbert was in the middle of recounting the story of his water fight with Richard Branson when — suddenly — he leaped from his seat to look out the window of the 20th-floor hotel room.

"Ohhhhh, I love this," Colbert said, pointing off in the distance at the glimmering water of Coal Harbour. "See that pontoon plane out there coming in for a landing? That's really exciting. I feel like a five-year-old boy. You see pictures of them, but when do you get to see one?"

For Colbert, those planes landing in the harbour were like his own personal closing ceremony for these Winter Olympics. He was packing up and getting ready to head to the airport for an evening flight back to New York.

For his Nation, though, the fun is just beginning.

"The Canadian people, God bless 'em. They get the joke."
Stephen Colbert

This week, the cult-like following of The Colbert Report will get to see the results of his whirlwind tour of the Olympic city, which included regaling a rowdy crowd at the Ireland House with a James Joyce reading, getting into a fondue chugging contest with the Swiss and persuading NBC host Bob Costas to climb aboard a stuffed moose nicknamed Ebersol (in honour of the network's Olympic chief, Dick Ebersol).

Colbert, his tongue planted firmly in cheek, told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview that he'll be kicking off his "Vancouverage" starting today from a studio that looks strangely like one he might be occupying were he still in British Columbia.

MARCIO SANCHEZ/AP PHOTO

Comedian Stephen Colbert holds a pair of skis during a taping of the Stephen Colbert Show at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics

Which, in the blurry line that Colbert always maintains between fact and fiction, is right where he'll be.

"I'm going to be broadcasting from the Colbert coverage chamber," he said. "The chamber is going have a stone fireplace. It's going to have a beautiful view of the mountains out the windows ... So, as you can see, I'll clearly be in Vancouver."

From New York, right?

"I can neither confirm nor deny that reality," quipped Colbert, dressed casually in a black sweater and blue jeans, a real change from the Brooks Brothers suits favoured by his character of the same name, a dim-witted right-wing pundit.

"My character calls anyone who's been on the show a 'friend of the show,'" Colbert said. "But on a certain level, we're grateful to anyone who plays along with this, because a lot of people won't. They don't know what to make of the character."

Colbert persuaded his followers to contribute more than $300,000 US to U.S. Speedskating after its main sponsor went bankrupt just before the start of the season.

He arrived in Vancouver last Tuesday, a day later than scheduled, and hastily filmed enough material to get him through next week's four 30-minute shows.

From a stage constructed in a downtown park, he spent two mornings taping guest interviews with Costas, Canadian singer Michael Buble, 1980 hockey gold medallist Mike Eruzione and three members of this year's U.S. Olympic team: snowboard cross gold medallist Seth Wescott and freestyle skiers Jeret Peterson and Ryan St. Onge.

Colbert said those outdoor interviews were the most memorable part of his experience, drawing thousands of screaming fans each day even though he'd sparked a feud (wink, wink) with Canadians by calling them "syrup suckers" and "Saskachewhiners."

"The Canadian people, God bless 'em," he said. "They get the joke."

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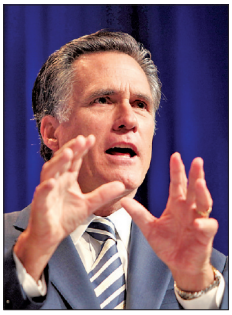
Keep your Mitts off the passengers

ALLEGED ASSAULT A rapper with the Grammy-nominated club act LMFAO says former Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney touched him first — and not the other way around — during a confrontation aboard an Air Canada flight that was preparing to take off from Vancouver, B.C.

Sky Blu, whose given name is Skyler Gordy, says in a video posted Friday on TMZ.com that he was trying to go to sleep when he leaned his seat back in the coach section of a the Vancouver-to-Los Angeles flight Monday. He says Romney loudly told him several times to straighten it, as is required during takeoff under commercial flight regulations. Then, he says, Romney reached forward and grabbed his shoulder.



GETTY IMAGES

Mitt Romney

"I just react — boom — get off me, you know," Gordy says in the video, taking a swing through the air as he speaks. "And I didn't take it any further than that. I just wanted the man not to touch me; that's it."

Gordy says that Romney's wife, Ann, screamed and that the plane returned to the gate before two police officers escorted him off. After being detained briefly, he was allowed to buy a ticket for another flight.

Romney spokesman Eric Fehrnstrom had no comment Friday about whether Gordy was the man with whom Romney had the confrontation, but aides said this week that Romney told them he thought the other person was in a band.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Sgt. Rob Vermeulen confirmed there was an incident on the flight, but he refused to release the names of those involved because no one was arrested.

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TV star charged for un-*Heroic* behaviour
Heroes actor Adrian Pasdar has officially been charged with DUI following his arrest last month in L.A., TMZ reports. The actor was pulled over on Jan. 27 after cops clocked him going 90 MPH on the 405 Freeway. Pasdar is due back in court on Feb. 24. **POPEATER.COM**

Jackson dad gets medical records

Michael Jackson's father can receive some medical records related to his superstar son's death, a judge ruled Friday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff ruled that Joe Jackson can receive his son's medical records from the hospital where he died. The judge will review the records first before releasing them to Joe Jackson's attorney, Brian Oxman. Beckloff also said the men can only receive records generated on or after June 25 — the day Michael Jackson died at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

Oxman sought the files as part of an effort to obtain a monthly stipend for the Jackson family patriarch.

He said during a hearing last week that he also needs the records to decide whether to pursue a wrongful death lawsuit.

Beckloff's order states a medical expert hired by Joe Jackson can review the files, but not copy them. Anyone who sees the records will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, the ruling states.

Jackson's estate had sought to quash subpoenas that Oxman issued for the files.

Attorneys for the estate argued during a hearing last week that Beckloff should review the files first.

They also stated the files shouldn't be released until after the results of a May hearing on Joe Jackson's stipend bid.

Oxman said he was pleased with the ruling and expects to have the records soon.

Beckloff is going to verify the records do not violate doctor-patient confidentiality. Oxman said he didn't expect that to be an issue.

"We are very certain based on prior records that we have from the paramedics that Michael was long deceased and that there were no communications (with doctors)," Oxman said.

FRAZIER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

Joe Jackson appears at the BET Awards three days after son Michael's death. A judge has ruled that he can receive Michael's medical records from the hospital where he died June 25, 2009.

He said Joe Jackson deserves to know more about how his son died and the records will also be important in his quest to receive an allowance of more than $15,000 per month.

Howard Weitzman, an attorney for Jackson's estate, said the ruling properly incorporates suggestions attorneys raised last week.

"The estate feels the court's order adequately protects Michael's interests," Weitzman said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Singer Elton John: Jesus was gay

CONTROVERSY Pop legend Elton John is making waves again, saying in an interview with Parade Magazine that Jesus Christ was a gay man.

The comments in a wide-ranging interview posted on the website of the U.S. magazine Parade have caused consternation among conservative Christians.

The 62-year-old musician is quoted as saying, "I think Jesus was a compassionate, super-intelligent gay man who understood human problems."

He went on to say that on the cross, Jesus forgave the people who crucified him and wanted us to be loving and forgiving.

The Catholic League condemned the comments, saying that to call Jesus a homosexual is to "label him a sexual deviant."

Chicago television station WGN interviewed John over the furor, and the musician tried to clarify his remarks, but remained steadfast to his message.

"I think Jesus was a compassionate, super-intelligent gay man who understood human problems."
Elton John

"I'm not saying to everyone that he definitely was gay; that's just how I see him from my point of view as a compassionate gay person," John is quoted on WGN's website.

"I see him as a compassionate person who forgave people. That's how I see him. Everyone's individual faith is their own business."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

DEATH AND TAXES Actor Wesley Snipes, who has tax problems of his own, had a blunt reaction to news about a software engineer who crashed his plane into an office building with nearly 200 IRS employees inside. In an interview with the Associated Press, Snipes asked, "What's new?" Authorities say A. Joseph Stack, who was furious with the Internal Revenue Service, crashed his plane into an Austin, Texas, building on Thursday. Snipes said tax problems have been an issue in the U.S. from the very beginning. Snipes, 47, was convicted in 2008 of not paying taxes for three years. He is appealing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nas pleads not guilty for missed child support

COURT Nas faces a criminal contempt charge for unpaid child and spousal support in his divorce from fellow singer Kelis.

The rapper pleaded not guilty through his attorney and was ordered back for a March hearing in Los Angeles.

Kelis' attorney says Nas is $200,000 behind on child and spousal support. He was ordered to pay more than $51,000 per month to his former wife and infant son in December.

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Definitely not brother and sister

Valentine's Day weekend must have brought out the romantic in Dave Annable. The Brothers and Sisters actor proposed to October Road actress Odette Yustman while in Santa Barbara — and she accepted. USMAGAZINE.COM

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to The Associated Press:

1. **Shutter Island:** $40.2 million US
2. **Valentine's Day:** $17.2 million US
3. **Avatar:** $16.1 million
4. **Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief:** $15.3 million
5. **The Wolfman:** $9.8 million
6. **Dear John:** $7.3 million
7. **The Tooth Fairy:** $4.5 million
8. **Crazy Heart:** $3 million
9. **From Paris With Love:** $2.5 million
10. **Edge of Darkness:** $2.2 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jackie Chan takes a class in Chinese history

FILM Jackie Chan says his new Chinese movie was some 20 years in the making, crediting an unknown director for helping him develop the story of the friendship between a soldier and a general in ancient China.

The project was kept on hold until he met director Ding Sheng, who has spent the bulk of his career shooting TV commercials.

"He's better educated than I am. He's studied history. He knew how to weave together my story and the characters," Chan said of Ding.

The result is a 96-minute drama set in ancient China when the country was split into warring states. Chan plays a rank-and-file soldier who captures a wounded general from a rival state, hoping that his feat will win an honourable discharge from his superiors. Little Big Soldier is Chan's first widely released Chinese-language movie since his 2006 action comedy Rob-B-Hood.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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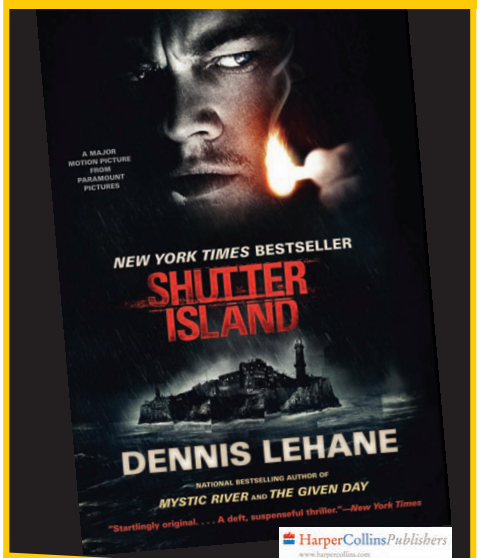

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Life blogger's MTV gig

Socialite

Rea McNamara

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You may not know it yet, but Casie Stewart is your new favourite online VJ, the latest update on that oh-so-'80s on-air media personality.

Since November 2009, the 27-year-old daily-blogger has garnered much attention for being the "online voice" of those venerable millennial-only pop culture channels. A day of work usually involves updating the @MTVCanada Twitter for its more than 27,000 followers, or posting episode clips on MuchMusic's official Facebook page.

"I blogged my way into the coolest job ever," says the digital marketing co-ordinator for MuchMusic and MTV Canada.

For the past four years, Stewart has led the "recorded life" via her "Casie Stewart: This Is My Life" blog. Click onto her Google profile, and you can catch this "rad social media chick" 24/7 on any networked stream: Buzz, Twitter, Tumblr, Formspring — you name it.

Casie Stewart

"If you want to build your personal brand, you got to live it," says the self-described "geek chick" who flaunts "goofy" black frames in profile pics with her trademarked platinum pixie cut. "You can't fake it."

So Stewart's self-packaged "realness" is now RSS-feeding into a big brand's multi-platform. But this Cambridge-raised social media starlet has "always been goal-oriented," whether it's self-publishing a poetry collection at 14 (the Toronto Star called her Keats' "teen muse") or posing as a SUNshine Girl in 2001.

Whereas her previous employer (an online casino company) "hated" her life-streaming, MuchMusic and MTV Canada love it. "They said they didn't want me to give up on that," she says. "That's what keeps me on trend."

Rea McNamara writes about the on/offline statuses of niches and subcultures. Follow her on Twitter @reeraw

Pays to over-share

- Sometimes it pays to over-share. Earlier this month, Stewart attended to much fanfare a Toronto club district party hosted by Jersey Shore's Pauly D and Mike The Situation. But she later tweeted in tears to her more than 2,000 @CasieStewart Twitter followers that her purse and phone were stolen. Two days later, Stewart tweeted that Telus replaced her stolen Blackberry with a new Motorola DROID. "I tell people what I'm using," she explains. "I don't have to, but I just do it because it's naturally what I do."

Good Voices Wanted For TV and RADIO

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To	Vu	SD	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
2/22/10	265	353	2	TVO	What the Ancients Did for Us		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Morning Sun (Part 1 of 2)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House (HDTV PA)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Cold Blood		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Sid vs. Alexander		Skate to Survive		XXI Winter Olympics Figure Skating.		
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	18 to Life	Little Mosque	Winnipeg Comedy		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law and Order		The Bachelor: On the Wings of Love (HDTV) (N)				Dark Blue		News
	212	313	8	CTV	(6) XXI Winter Olympics Hockey, Figure Skating, Medal Ceremonies. Hockey; Figure Skating: Free Dance; Medal Ceremonies. (Live)								
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Camilla* ★★ (1994, Drama) Jessica Tandy, Bridget Fonda.				*Youngblood* ★★ (1986, Drama) Rob Lowe, Cynthia Gibb.				News at 11 (N)
primetime	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	XXI Winter Olympics Hockey. (Live)					King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	George Lopez	The Insider (N)	*A Decent Proposal* (2007, Drama) Jessica Tuck.				The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	Olympic Zone	XXI Winter Olympics Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Ski Jumping. (HDTV) (Live)						
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor: On the Wings of Love (HDTV) (N)				Castle (HDTV)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	TMZ (N)	Access H.	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV PA)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		American Experience		American Masters		
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		Life Unexpected (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect with Mark Kelley (N)				CBC News: The National		Addicted to Power		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		Asia Squawk Box (Live)		Cash Flow (Live)				Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	(6) XXI Winter Olympics Curling, Figure Skating. (HDTV) Curling, women's: Canada vs. Sweden; figure skating. (Live)								
	400	400	30	TSN	(6) XXI Winter Olympics Curling, Cross-Country Skiing, Freestyle Skiing. (HDTV) (Live)								
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		(8:59) XXI Winter Olympics Freestyle Skiing.			Angry Planet	Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	NASCAR	What's Deal?	Barrett-Jackson		Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	Scorpion	Scorpion	The Next Star		Fries That?	Prank Patrol	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		How Clean Is	How Clean	Love It or List It "Gallagher"		Love It or List It		Confidential
	570	580	29	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		My Date With...	America's Best Dance Crew		Video on Trial	MOD Live at the Base		Concert Series
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Intervention "Danielle"		Intervention "Rob"		Hoarders "Deborah; Jim"		Paranormal
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Il Commissario				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Behind the Music		Gene Simmons
	575	583	38	CMT	Due South		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		According-Jim	According-Jim	*The Man in the Moon* ★★ (1991, Drama)		
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*XIII* (2009, Suspense) Val Kilmer, Stephen McHattie.				Bones (HDTV)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	When Moses Woke		Sounds Like Motown		Straight Shooter: The Mamas & the Papas			Três Portugal	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Nearly Dead	Newlywed	Tori & Dean: Home		Love Inc.	Love Inc.	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Underground War		Greatest Tank Battles		Lost Worlds (HDTV)		Shockwave (HDTV)		Tank Battles
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	John Oliver's Stand-Up Show		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Marriage	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes/Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Monica: Still	Monica: Still	Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	Law & Order
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Civil Brand* ★★ (2002, Drama) Mos Def, N'Bushe Wright.				Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Dragon Dynasty* (2006, Adventure) Federico Castelluccio.				Stormworld
	581	566	52	MTV	Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Life of Ryan	Buried	Buried	Life of Ryan	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Re-Vamped		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Flipping Out		Launch My Line "Finale"		Prod. Parker
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	David Rocco	Restaurant Makeover		Top Chef Masters		Pitchin' In	Glutton	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	Wait for God	Blue Murder "Up in Smoke"		Unscripted	Archaeologist	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Bucket-Dinos	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case		Missing "In the Midnight Hour"		The Closer "Borderline"		Cold Case		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(6:30) *Past Lies* (2008)		Sanctuary		Spartacus: Blood and Sand (N)		Diary-Cali Girl	Tracey Ullman	La La Land (N)
	305	612	306	PIX	*Stowaways*	*Time of the Wolf* (2002, Drama)			*The Silence of the Lambs* ★★★★ (1991, Suspense)				*The Rendering*
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Breaking Point (N)		Dirty Jobs Leeches.		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	First Class All the Way		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		Sexiest Body Parts		1st Class Way

So this werewolf and this poorly-written female character walk into the Oscars...
Kristen Stewart will be attending the Academy Awards next month with a Twilight co-star on her arm, but it won't be Robert Pattinson. "Me and Taylor (Lautner) are going to present." METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Hilton birthday bash ends in tears, smiles

HER ENTIRE EMOTIONAL RANGE! IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO EXHAUSTING FOR HER Paris Hilton's 29th birthday party was thrown into chaos when her boyfriend Doug Reinhardt got into a fight with her pal Brandon Davis, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Onlookers were stunned after the heiress and former The Hills star Reinhardt began arguing in the middle of New York hot spot Tea Room on Thursday. A furious Hilton walked off, and moments later Reinhardt was at the centre of another screaming match with oil heir Brandon Davis, who was once romantically linked to the socialite.

Reinhardt was said to have been angry after Davis arrived unexpectedly and appeared to be inebriated, according to The New York Post.

A source tells the publication, "One minute, Paris and Doug were looking all loved up; the next minute, they started bickering. Doug didn't seem happy about all the attention she was getting. Paris started to pout and gave him some girly punches in the back before storming off.

"The next minute, Doug was shouting at Brandon. The music was so loud that we couldn't hear what he was saying, but he then got Brandon thrown out of the door."

But the birthday girl patched things up with her boyfriend and ended the night with a smile on her face. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kourtney denies media rumours ... to the media

I'VE SET UP THESE MULTIPLE PHOTO OPS TO TELL YOU ALL TO LEAVE US ALONE With one smooch (and then another and another) in Vegas on Friday, Kourtney Kardashian and boyfriend Scott Disick put to rest rumours of the couple's demise, people.com reports.

The pair has been under fire since reports surfaced that Disick, the father of Kardashian's nine-week-old son, Mason, had been unfaithful. The rumours, Kardashian said, couldn't be further from the truth.

When asked if she is laughing off the rumors, she told People, "Yes, of course. You can't take it too seriously.

"Scott is my partner and we do everything together," she added. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

LANCE ARMSTRONG unwittingly calls the police, **DIABLO CODY**'s parents are starstruck, and **DAVID SPADE** is thinking of the public good.

@lancearmstrong: Cops @ house. Some1 dialed 911. After interrogating the kids we figured out yours truly misdialed

@diablocody: My parents just saw Ian Ziering at the Griddle. This will make their annual Christmas letter for sure.

@davidspade: i think cell phones should come with a breathalizer attachment. especially after 10 pm. theres some stupid regrettable calls going down.

GETTY IMAGES

METRO WORLD NEWS

Ex-Pumpkin dishes on Jessica romance

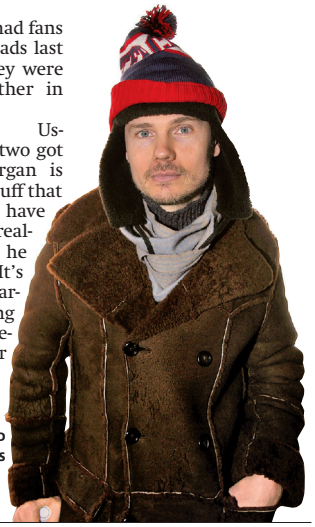
'IT'S LIKE BEING IN A CARTOON': PERHAPS THE MOST APT DESCRIPTION FOR DATING JESSICA SIMPSON ON RECORD Billy Corgan has finally broken his silence about his relationship with Jessica Simpson, usmagazine.com reports.

"She asked me to help her out on the theme song for her new TV show (VH1's The Price of Beauty)," the Smashing Pumpkins frontman, 42, tells the Chicago Tribune. "(The show) has an interesting concept. She goes around the world to show how different people perceive beauty. In some cultures, bigger is better. In some, smaller is better. It's interesting."

The odd couple had fans scratching their heads last December after they were first spotted together in New York City.

Sources tell UsMagazine.com the two got romantic, but Corgan is playing coy. "The stuff that I've seen doesn't have any bearing to the reality that I'm in," he tells the paper. "It's like being in a cartoon. It has nothing to do with what's really going on or how I feel."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Jay-Z longs to work with Allen

WE DON'T GET IT EITHER Rapper Jay-Z has collaborated with a long list of artists, but there's one out there he still wants to work with: Lily Allen.

"I'm trying to get her," he tells BBC Radio. "Hopefully that goes through. I bum-rushed them in the corner where they can't say no. I've collaborated with so many artists. It's pressure because on the days when they don't come out I have to over-perform.'" METRO WORLD NEWS

Sean has another paparazzi tantrum

SOMEONE PUT HIM IN HIS PLAY-PENN Sean Penn's temper has gotten him into trouble once again. The Oscar-winning actor was charged with battery and vandalism last week for allegedly attacking a photographer and breaking his camera outside a restaurant and shop in Brentwood, Calif., in October, according to Hollyscoop.

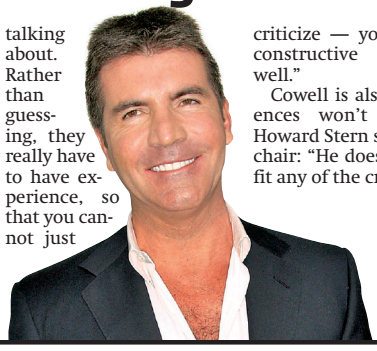
Penn was charged with two misdemeanors and could face up to 18 months in prison. METRO WORLD NEWS

Cowell: I've left big shoes to fill

AND LOTS OF TIGHT BLACK T-SHIRTS Simon Cowell may be departing the judges' table on American Idol, but he's not going to let just anyone replace him.

"You have to be good looking," Cowell tells People magazine. "Secondly, you have to know what you're talking about. I'm starting to realize with these shows that you have to put people on that actually know what they're talking about. Rather than guessing, they really have to have experience, so that you cannot just criticize — you can offer constructive advice as well."

Cowell is also sure audiences won't be seeing Howard Stern sitting in his chair: "He doesn't seem to fit any of the criteria." METRO WORLD NEWS



Justin wants to look like Mick

AS LONG AS HIS CURRENT STYLE GETS KICKED TO THE CURB Justin Timberlake's fashion inspiration is Mick Jagger, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer — who launched his latest collection for fashion house William Rast at New York Fashion Week last Tuesday — is a huge fan of the Rolling Stones legend's style and based a lot of his designs on him.

"I think since the beginning of rock 'n' roll, people have wanted to dress like rock stars," he told MTV. "I still find old Mick Jagger jackets that I wish I could pull out of my closet or something. Of course, they wouldn't fit me. Very tight." METRO WORLD NEWS

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Today 90% 1-3cm of snow 0°/ -2°

Tuesday 90% Rain and snow 4° / -2°

Wednesday 40% Flurries 2° / -3°

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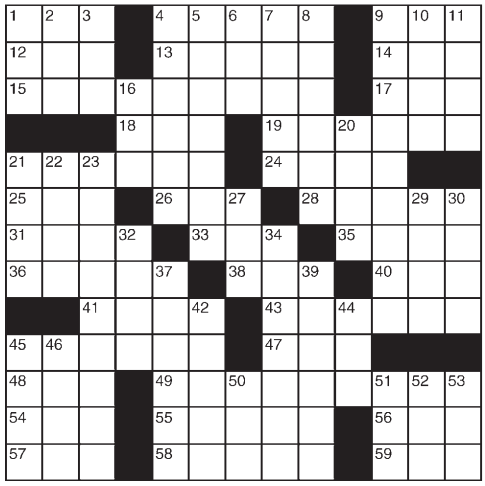


Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2	5						7	4
			9		2			
9		3				8		2
		8	1		9	4		
	6						3	
		9	6		5	2		
1		5				3		7
			4		7			
8	9						4	6

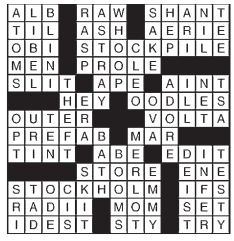
ACROSS

1 Luau souvenir
4 Homer Simpson's wife
9 Ernesto Guevara
12 Skill
13 Declined a restaurant offer
14 Scarlet
15 Puzzle such as this one
17 Raw mineral
18 Environmentally friendly
19 Textbook section
21 Societal subdivision
24 Snead and Spade
25 "— Town"
26 Recipe meas.
28 Not urban
31 Incite
33 Scot's hat
35 Colour quality
36 Watered (down)
38 Sweet potato
40 — glance
41 Bed-frame piece
43 Sore
45 Make improvements
47 Equal (Prefix)
48 Clay, today
49 Second-ary conversation
54 Automobile
55 Obliterate
56 Roman 3
57 Compass dir.
58 Bank repositories
59 Started

DOWN

1 Varnish ingredient
2 Blunder
3 Judge Lance
4 Cos-tumed one at an arena
5 If all else fails
6 Old Oldsmobile
7 The Dionne Quintuplets, e.g.
8 Ingratiate
9 Intersection
10 Medal earner
11 Paradise
16 Collection
20 Pornography
21 Second-year student
22 Franc replacement
23 Bygone CNN series
27 Salary
29 Initial stake
30 Cordelia's father
32 Sandwich shop
34 "Woman With the Hat" painter
37 Takes to the floor
39 Disarrays
42 — cotta
44 "To be or — ..."
45 "The Amazing —"
46 Verve
50 Lummox
51 Have a bug
52 Tell a tale
53 Tease

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	3	6	5	7	9	1	2	4
7	4	9	1	8	2	6	5	3
1	2	5	6	3	4	9	7	8
6	9	8	3	5	7	4	1	2
3	5	2	4	6	1	8	9	7
4	7	1	2	9	8	5	3	6
9	6	4	7	1	3	2	8	5
2	8	3	9	4	5	7	6	1
5	1	7	8	2	6	3	4	9

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Sweet and Spicy Chickpeas

INGREDIENTS:

398 mL can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lime
1 tsp white sugar
1 tsp garam masala
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp dried oregano
2 tbsp canola oil
2 small onions, halved and thickly sliced
2 peppers (1 red, yellow or orange and 1 green), halved and thickly sliced
12 baby plum or cherry tomatoes, halved

METHOD:

1. Tip chickpeas into bowl. Add lime zest and juice, sugar, garam masala, cinnamon and oregano. Stir to coat chickpeas in spicy mixture. Set aside.

2. Heat large frying pan or wok with oil. When oil is hot, add onions and stir-fry 4 minutes or until just beginning to colour. Reduce heat and add peppers. Cook for further 3-4 minutes, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are almost tender.

3. Stir in tomatoes, then add spicy chickpea mixture. Cook 2 minutes or until vegetables are tender and everything is hot.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
If you must make a decision about a work-related problems at least wait until the full moon on the 28th has passed by.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Your work schedule is pretty full at the moment and if you commit yourself to something new it might stretch you too far.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You can make things easy for yourself or you can make things difficult — it is your choice entirely.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Adventurous Crabs will go out of their way to seek out new experiences. Not-so-adventurous Crabs will have new experiences thrust upon them.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
There is a distinct chance that you will clash with a partner or loved one over something that is fundamental to your relationship.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You should find it easier to get along with partners, employers and colleagues this week, at least until the 28th.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A radical change of direction is signaled for the coming week and you must expect to encounter stiff opposition.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Try not to react in an emotional way to what is essentially a practical problem. You have a talent for hiding your true feelings. You need that talent now.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Current aspects add a sense of urgency to what you are doing but you must not get carried away — time is still on your side.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You have made a number of sacrifices in recent weeks and should now be feeling the benefits. So don't go and spoil it by taking unnecessary risks.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A relationship problem you have been trying to ignore will be brought into the open today and everything will change.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you are a bit worried about the way your life is going then talk things over with someone you can trust.

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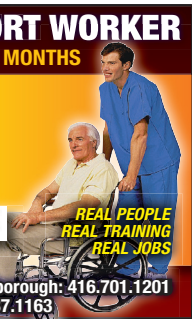

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Introducing 16 apps that need no introduction.

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Free • Looking to improve your soccer skills this year? This elite Nike training app features instructional videos from FC Barcelona coaches. Get tips on ball control, see drills the pros use and even learn some of their signature moves.

Maclean's
Free • The only national news magazine now fits in your pocket. Read selected articles, opinions and blogs, and get the Maclean's perspective on all the issues facing the country.

CBC Hockey
Free • The home of hockey brings you live box scores for the whole NHL schedule, as well as standings and stats for every team and player. Now you can always be on top of your game.

Avis
Free • Get the car you want, when you want it from the car rental service that "tries harder." Easily check real-time availability, make on-the-fly reservations and enjoy access to special rates.

Disney
Free • The largest and most loved entertainment company in the world brings you games, videos, a radio station and more. You can even create a photo of yourself with favourite characters from the Disney movies.

Air Canada
Free • The country's largest airline, at your fingertips. Receive notifications about any changes to your flight, check in and choose your seats – all before you get to the airport.

NFB Films
Free • The National Film Board brings you hundreds of movies – for free. Watch award-winning animations and documentaries right now, or store on your iPhone and view off-line.

LEGO
Free • Enjoy the iconic building toy right on your iPhone. Take a picture, tap the screen and see the image transform itself into Lego bricks before your eyes. Save to your photo library or send to friends and relatives.

The North Face
Free • Before you hit the slopes, pocket this comprehensive resort guide from The North Face. Get trail maps, forecasts, check current snow conditions – from St. Anton to Zermatt.

L'Oréal Paris
Free • Want to know what colours suit your skin tone, or how to apply the perfect lipstick? It's all here on your iPhone. Just tap for make-up tips, skincare information and video demonstrations.

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Free • Put the world's top online marketplace on your iPhone. Search for new stuff and place that last-minute bid even when you're nowhere near your computer.

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Free • Listen to CBC Radio on your iPhone. Tap into 19 live streams and over 60 popular programs on-demand. Browse archived episodes and create a favourites list for quick access to the programs you love.

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